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veteran and disability
advocate Joel Sardi

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ANGUISH ALLEVIATORS

The science behind
assistance animals



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Controlling Your Outcome

Our interview with veteran and
disability advocate Joel Sardi

*In the weeks and years after a catastrophic
accident rendered the former soldier paralysed,
he couldn't fathom what life would look like —
until he found happiness again.*



Write to us!

Send your feedback on this edition
of *Mufti* to mufti@rslvic.com.au or
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Write to us via email or mail. We'd
love to hear from you!

MUFTI

Meaning: Mufti, or civvies, refers to plain
or ordinary clothes, especially when worn
by one who normally wears, or has long
worn, a military or other uniform.



WELCOME

A word from our State President
Dr Robert Webster OAM

Welcome to the October edition of Mufti

I penned this welcome the same day Australia woke to the news of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passing. Although too late to include a story about Her Majesty in the magazine’s pagination, I could not publish our October edition without acknowledging this loss. Within the RSL, we not only mourn the loss of our Queen but also our patron of more than 70 years. We also mourn a remarkable and long-serving world leader who was a pillar of strength and will continue, even in death, to serve as a symbol of endurance in difficult times.

On the pages of this magazine are some truly remarkable stories of people who have endured extraordinary and challenging situations. Here I must highlight our feature story with veteran and disability advocate Joel Sadri on page 8. Our commemorative feature commemorates the 60th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War on page 32, and our exclusive interview with World War II veteran and code breaker Jocelyn Kelso on page 36. This is just a taste, and each story in this magazine is a must-read!

There is so much to takeaway from the pages of this magazine. I am often inspired by the stories told in *Mufti*, and this edition is no exception. I hope that many of our readers feel the same.

The October edition of *Mufti* hits mailboxes in the last week of October, as close to Remembrance Day as possible. In Australia and other countries of the Commonwealth, we recognise the red poppy as the commemorative flower of remembrance, as it was this flower that was the first to bloom on the decimated battlefields of the Western Front. It is, I think, quite beautiful that this little bulb waited under the ground for the fighting to end, and then grew as an everlasting symbol of remembrance and hope for a conflict-free future.

This acknowledgement of the past and hope for the future is what we pin to our chests every November. This sentiment is partly why the RSL has sold the red poppy for more than 100 years as part of our annual Poppy Appeal. Not only does the sale of poppies raise money for our veteran support programs and activities, but it also ensures that service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. So when you buy your poppy this Remembrance Day, know that you are declaring: ‘We will remember them’.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Robert Webster OAM
State President
RSL Victoria



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A word from our readers

The Editor welcomes your feedback and opinion. Please email mufti@rslvic.com.au or send letters to **The Editor of Mufti, ANZAC House, 4 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000**

“I think the April issue is excellent – varied, really interesting, and good to look at. Perhaps the article about Vivian Bullwinkel was most interesting for me, probably because it’s a story I’ve known all my life, and there was new information. Really, however, all the articles were interesting.”

CATE

Visit rslvic.com.au to read past editions of *Mufti*.



↑ President of the Mallacoota RSL Sub-Branch Mark Tregellas conducting a Dawn Service at Captain Stevenson's Point Mallacoota. This picture was published as part of 'Our Greatest Comeback' story in *Mufti* Vol 62.

“Just been reading the latest edition of Mufti and the article about our local RSLs, ‘Our Greatest Comeback’. Fascinating article and fantastic to see how the RSLs are going.”

PETER



↑ Studio portrait of staff nurse Vivian Bullwinkel, AANS, in service dress uniform. Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

“I just finished reading your latest edition and loved it!”

TUG

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↑ Joel and his family.

CONTROLLING YOUR OUTCOME

Author
Aileen Phillips
Photos
Robert Blackburn

As he cried into his father's arms, Joel Sardi never really understood the true meaning behind "we will get through it"

In the weeks and years after a catastrophic accident rendered him paralysed, he couldn't fathom what life would look like — until he found happiness again.

Many in the Victorian veteran community will be familiar with Joel Sardi, but with so many facets to this aspirational man, his evolving journey continues to be inspirational.

Joel was 19 and looking for a new experience, an opportunity to travel and learn about himself and thought he'd give the Army a go. He entered a gap year program and started a position with infantry. He was sold.

"I was one month into my time at Kapooka and I signed on for the full four-year contract."

Joel thrived in the environment, loving the commitment and discipline.

"It was like living in a football club seven days a week, 24 hours a day."

Joel was living the dream serving in the infantry, based in Adelaide.

"We were in training, we were shooting weapons, we were becoming really close mates. I thought this is 10 times better than what you see on TV, or you read or see in the movies. I thought, 'Imagine what deployment would look like.' That's what kept me going."

JOEL SARDI

Ultimately, he wanted to go to Afghanistan.

"I'd read about it, I'd seen it on the news, I'd heard about it and I thought, 'What an experience, what a way to serve my country'."

At 21 years old, Joel achieved his dream.

"The feeling of flying into Afghanistan and getting off the plane and setting foot on the soil there, and seeing that vast terrain of mountains; it was surreal."

The eight-month deployment saw him based in Tarin Kowt and Kandahar, taking up several roles and responsibilities, including close personal protection for officials.



↑ An accident changed Joel Sardi's life.

"We were ensuring they were safe and meetings went ahead safely with their Afghan counterparts."

Joel admits he was young and immature and thought he was prepared for it all. Despite all the training to ready himself for Afghanistan, some experiences hit hard.

"Hearing that one of the soldiers that was at the same base as you is, one day, no longer with us..."

Joel's eyes were opened to the world.

"You see a young boy on a prosthetic leg because his leg was blown off. Over here, we have kids who complain because the WIFI isn't working in their house."

Unbeknown to him at the time, he would draw on these life experiences when faced with his own trauma, having to find a new level of perspective.

"I learnt what was hard and what was not when I was overseas, and it was a great introduction for what was to come."

JOEL SARDI

Embracing his return home from Afghanistan in December 2013, Joel went on leave and faced life as a soldier in civilian society.

On Saturday night 31 August 2014, a fall changed Joel's life forever.

“I went from physically able and independent to absolutely dependent, absolutely paralysed. The worst part was that my mind was not damaged.”

JOEL SARDI

“I could think of everything that was going on, I could think of everything that I was never going to do, and my will collapsed.”

He remembers the countless times he’d cry into his father’s arms.

“I’d say, ‘I can’t do it, it’s not fair’.”

He said it took life experiences, people around him and a lot of work to be able to see the beauty in life after an accident like his.

“No one can break their neck and be okay with it. It took years for me to be okay. It took four years to be okay with it.”

JOEL SARDI

“During service, you’re exercising every day and if you’re not, you fall behind. You need to be fit; you need to be strong to be able to do the job. Being active was always part of my life prior to service so it didn’t come as something new to me to remain fit and robust. It was definitely a different form of fitness — mentally strong and physically robust.”

“But breaking my neck after returning, suddenly not being able to exercise, is such a contrast.”

Joel was airlifted to Melbourne, where he spent a year in hospital.

“It was learning about catheters, about suppositories. It was learning about bowel accidents because there were plenty of them. It was learning about all the complications spinal cord injury brings, not only physically but mentally.”

After being discharged, Joel moved back to his childhood family home, returning as a wheelchair user.

Unable to get upstairs and maneuver around the home with ease, RSL Victoria, led by the Greensborough Sub-Branch, stepped in.

“They came to see me [while I was still in] hospital and said they’re here to support me, whatever I need. They approached my mum and said, ‘We’re here to support you, however you need it’.”

JOEL SARDI



↑ Joel Sardi and President of the Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch, Lee Webb OAM JP.

Unable to qualify for financial support from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA), Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch, together with RSL Victoria and several other Sub-Branches jumped in to provide financial support.



↑ Joel Sardi and Lee Webb, OAM JP, catching up at the Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch.

“They paid for most of the accessibility renovations to my parents’ house, provided ongoing support for me and my family, which allowed me to actually move home and have quality of life,” Joel said.

The RSL in Victoria also covered most of the expenses for Joel to travel to a specialised rehabilitation clinic in America for a total of 12 months.

“We [Joel and his then girlfriend, Elisa] were over in a foreign country just by ourselves learning how to kick arse with a spinal cord injury.”

Lee Webb, OAM JP, has been the President of Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch for over 20 years.

“It makes me proud we were able to do that. That’s our core business, to look after veterans.”

LEE WEBB, OAM JP

“I think a person’s life and a person’s lifestyle is much more important than the cost of what it takes to support them,” Lee said.

Without the assistance of the RSL network in Victoria, Joel is convinced his life wouldn’t be where it is today.

“I wouldn’t be healthy or alive or living at the level I’m at physically or mentally.”

Joel battled for years to come to terms with his new way of life, calling it an identity crisis.

It was through hard work, perseverance and a series of events that culminated in the turning point of Joel’s acceptance of his injury.

He found the love of his life in Elisa, who had stood by him through it all.

“I knew that Elisa was ‘The One’. Elisa is a woman who can deal with adversity, who can be positive, can live with me. I’m not an easy person to live with, with or without a spinal cord injury.”

They became engaged in 2017 and married the following year.

“I realised with Elisa I can still be ecstatic, the happiest person in the world, regardless of my physical health.”

Around that time Joel began working in the corporate world.

“It was there that I had purpose because people relied on me to do a job. My identity was coming back. I wasn’t just a quadriplegic.”

JOEL SARDI

Recently Joel has turned some of his biggest insecurities into his success, taking the public speaking circuit by storm.

"I was shit-scared. I was asked to tell my story to the Army football team and people were blown away by it; I guess the ups and downs and how raw I was. I got asked again and again for a couple of other people and started doing it for free and then it turned into a business."

Joel doesn't take to the term 'motivational speaker' warmly. He prefers the term 'educator' to describe what he does, and for good reason.

"Your perspective determines everything. Your perspective controls your narrative, controls your outcome. Everybody goes through adversity, it's unmissable, it's unavoidable, but you can come out from it as a constructive, somewhat positive person by harnessing your perspective."

JOEL SARDI

He said it's rewarding for him to help people through conversation.

"I get the gratification that if I know I've changed one person's mindset that may have changed their life and may have saved their life. That's what I take from it."

On a personal level, he is more content than he could have ever imagined, as the father of two young girls.

"Challenging, rewarding, endlessly challenging and rewarding," he laughs as he describes fatherhood.



↑ Joel and his daughter.

"It's incredible. These two little kids are ours and we have direct influence on them and impact on their lives growing up. They know me as Dad, wheelchair or not."

JOEL SARDI

As a young soldier, Joel had a vision of telling his grandkids war stories one day — once a dream that is now in reach.

"I always said that I wanted to become a grandparent one day and sit back and tell my grandkids something I can be proud of."

War stories that are now only a small part of all that Joel can be proud of and share.

"What I'm living now, that's what he [Dad] meant. It's just getting back to a life where you can be happy. This is what my dad was referring to when he said, 'We'll get through it'."

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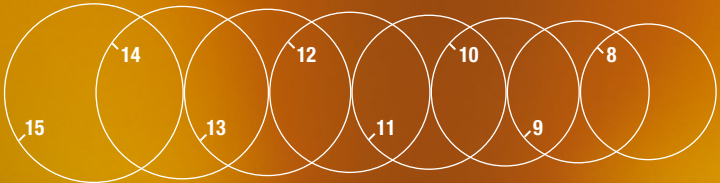
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KEEPING THE PEACE

Author
Aaron Langmaid

Photos
Defence Images and
Major Michael Lee

Major Michael Lee has just returned from a peacekeeping operation in South Sudan. His service is part of a proud, 75-year legacy of Australian involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

Major Michael Lee had not long returned from his role serving as an Australian peacekeeper in South Sudan when he found himself idling in a supermarket fresh produce section.

He couldn't quite believe it. The rows of neatly stacked fruit and vegetables spread out before him suddenly came to represent so much more.

"I was stunned as I stood there looking at everything — the aisles and aisles of food," said Major Lee.

"It was really confronting for me to so clearly see the differences in what we have and what others don't."

"It is a lack of equality which is unfortunately present across the world."

MAJOR MICHAEL LEE



Major Michael Lee.



Major Michael Lee serving on an Australian Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

It was just one in a string of learning experiences for the 44-year-old; who is one of 15 Australian representatives sent into South Sudan as part of the United Nation's efforts to rebuild the region.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Australia's involvement in UN Peacekeeping missions around the world.

Since 1947, Australian peacekeepers have served across the Middle East to Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cyprus, East Timor, Southeast Asia, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

Sixteen Australians have died as a result of the campaigns.

Major Lee has only recently returned from his deployment as part of Operation ASLAN; the ADF's contribution of personnel in South Sudan from the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Since 2013, the African nation has been blighted by civil unrest, leading to a significant humanitarian crisis.

Based at the United Nations' mission headquarters in Juba, Major Lee worked as part of the Plans Branch responsible for trialing enhanced land and riverine mobility for Peacekeeping patrols.

With parts of the country prone to flooding, particularly across the north and east, the UN was eager to increase its presence through the use of all-terrain amphibious vehicles and smaller-style military vessels for the river systems.

"Regular UN patrols tend to keep away a lot of negative influences and helps support the local government," said Major Lee.

"That is principally where I was trying to help peacekeepers out — so in the field, they could do their jobs better."

As well as operations in South Sudan, Australians currently fill Peacekeeping roles across the Middle East and Cyprus.

But the significance of Australia's UN contributions are perhaps best showcased by two operations which played out closer to home.

In 1991, Australia was instrumental in the diplomacy that led to the Cambodian peace settlement and contributed to the UN transitional authority, including sending the first military contingent and providing the commander of the military component of the mission.

Aussie peacekeepers also made their mark in East Timor in 1999 when the Australian Government sent in representatives to help ease the humanitarian and security crisis.



Major Michael Lee on Remembrance Day.

Other missions across our own region have included the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Major Lee had previously been deployed as part of the Reconstruction Task Force in Afghanistan in 2008, the Force Communications unit in the United Arab Emirates in 2010 and was part of the United States' Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq between 2017 and 2018.

While he said there were lessons from every deployment, his UN role in South Sudan stood out.

"There were a multitude of really good experiences," Major Lee said.

"Getting out to some of the provinces and to see the South Sudanese people and see the poverty and the need that was out there — it made me reflect on how lucky we are in Australia and reinforced the reason we were there to help."

MAJOR MICHAEL LEE



Photo taken by Major Michael Lee in South Sudan.

"I saw how dire the situation is for so many people who are just trying to live their life and help their kids grow — give them food and fresh water and get them an education and a job — all the things we have to do here but we don't have to think about too hard."

Major Lee admits seven months away from his family — wife Renada and sons Parker, 13 and Jonah 12 and daughter Portia 10 — wasn't easy but they each understood the role he was playing in making a difference in the lives of others.

"I think they intrinsically understood that I had gone to work for the United Nations which is trying to make the world a better place," he said.

"It really resonated with them, and I think they could see that I was doing my small part."

Major Lee was humbled to learn that the all-terrain vehicles — which had to be shipped from the Ukraine in a time of war — were on the ground and making a difference.

He also remains hopeful for a brighter future for South Sudan with the revitalised peace agreement holding and elections around the corner.

More broadly, Major Lee said he had learnt the deep value of Australia's involvement in overseas peacekeeping missions.

"As part of the United Nations, countries that are well off and have the means should be able to support nations that are in need and assist with their progress," he said.

"Because we are all human and we should always try to help each other.

"It also supports Australia's image on the world stage — as a contributor — not just a country that sits on the sidelines."

And if every deployment leaves a personal legacy, Major Lee said his experiences in South Sudan taught him patience and empathy.

"We should all try and make the world — your country or your little area — a better place," he said.

"Do your little bit to make something better. Your legacy might only be small — but leave a legacy — that you were known as a helper and made a difference."

MAJOR MICHAEL LEE



Commemorate 75 years of Australia's involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping operations by securing your limited edition Poppy Appeal Badge, available online or from a Poppy Appeal volunteer near you.



ANGUISH ALLEVIATORS: THE SCIENCE BEHIND ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Author
Lucie van den Berg
Photos
James McPherson

It has long been said that dogs are man's best friend. Assistance dogs like Lola, show that friendship can be life-changing.

Lola shadows Andrew Hall in the supermarket, accompanies him on aeroplanes and is even at his feet when he donates blood.

But the black labrador is more than just his constant companion; she is a highly trained animal helping him with his clinical recovery.

Lola is one of a growing number of assistance dogs in Australia, helping improve the lives of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The animals undergo years of training to detect signs of stress or anxiety in their owners.

Once they become aware of deterioration in their owner's mental state, they act to reassure or motivate them, potentially preventing a traumatic situation from unfolding.

"Lola's my best mate," Andrew said.

"She's so smart, she can just look at me and know when I need to remove myself from a situation and she wakes me up when I'm having a bad night."

ANDREW HALL



↑ Andrew Hall and his assistance dog, Lola.



↑ Assistance dog, Lola.

To explain the science behind how assistance dogs support their owners, La Trobe University animal cognition expert, Dr Tiffani Howell, tells the true tale of a horse called Hans.

Hans trotted into the history books more than 100 years ago after his owner taught him to 'solve' simple mathematical equations.

"The handler would give the horse a maths problem, and then the horse would tap his hoof until he reached the right answer," the Senior Research Fellow said.

Scientists studying Hans soon discovered that when the horse tapped his hoof, its trainer displayed signs of tension through his facial expressions, postures and breathing, which inevitably disappeared when Hans reached the correct answer.

Hans wasn't a mathematician — the horse had learnt to read its owner's micro movements and respond accordingly, now known as the Clever Hans effect.

"It's amazing," Dr Howell said.

"And we think that is what is happening with assistance; the animal is noticing something that their owner doesn't even realise that they are doing — a change in their breathing, eyes narrowing, or a subtle shift in their voice or movements — and it is trained to respond to it."

It's something that Andrew, who served in the Australian Army for almost three decades, can attest to.

The Vice President of the Montmorency Eltham RSL Sub-Branch sought help for PTSD after experiencing traumatic events in the Middle East.

Two years ago, Lola came into his life. She has made an immeasurable difference to his wellbeing.

"PTSD affects people differently, but for me Lola really keeps me motivated, safe and grounded," Andrew said.

He hopes more veterans benefit from this type of assistance, but he admits having an assistance dog is a big commitment.

"I joke that sometimes it's like having young baby again; they make themselves slightly dependent on you and vice versa," he said.

"Lola gets me out of bed, or off the couch by poking her nose into me, some days it's a bit more of a headbutt. It's her way of saying, 'Come on, let's go'."

ANDREW HALL

"My wife also works full-time and my son lives in Western Australia, so Lola gives me something to do, other than just the mechanics of getting through the day."

She is also trained to detect and respond to signs of stress.

"We can be out somewhere and she will start pushing me away, or jumping on me, and sometimes I think that I'm fine, but the trainers have told me to trust her, because she is picking up on things I may not even be aware that I'm doing."

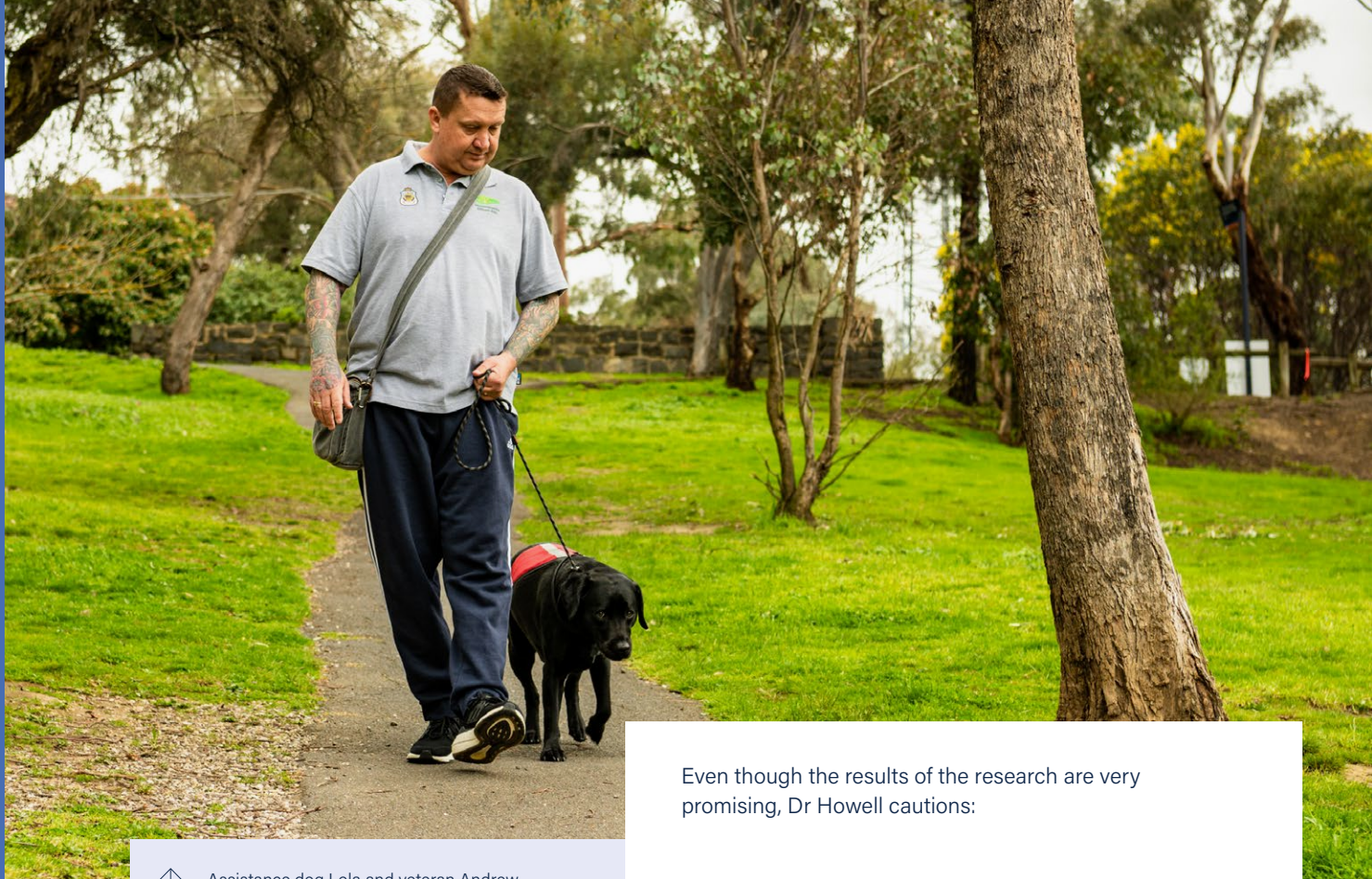
Dr Howell said that what makes dogs really great as assistance animals is their willingness to work with humans.

"They are adaptable and can be trained to behave in public," she said.

There are important distinctions between assistance, therapy or service dogs.

Dr Howell said an assistance dog is trained to perform at least one task that mitigates the impact of a person's disability.

It is trained to such a high standard of behaviour and hygiene, that it qualifies for public access rights, which means they can go into a café, library or use public transport.



↑ Assistance dog Lola and veteran Andrew are best mates.

"The classic example is a guide dog, which has been around for decades, but more recently we have seen other types of assistance animals, such as psychiatric assistance dogs for people with PTSD," Dr Howell said.

"On the other hand, a therapy animal is part of a structured therapeutic program managed by a healthcare professional."

There is increasing recognition of the benefit of assistance dogs for veterans experiencing PTSD.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has a Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program to support the clinical recovery of eligible veterans with a PTSD diagnosis.

The Federal Government has also backed a research project into assistance dogs and veterans' mental health, led by La Trobe's School of Psychology and Public Health.

While the outcome of the research is still awaiting publication, Dr Howell said evidence emerging overseas had shown assistance dogs could improve quality of life, independence and reduce PTSD symptoms.

"When we talk about quality of life, it includes things like the ability to get a good night's sleep, or to go out into the community, without relying on another person," Dr Howell said.

Even though the results of the research are very promising, Dr Howell cautions:

"These dogs are not a cure. They can improve someone's ability to function, their quality of life and management of PTSD, but it's still there and it's important to continue to seek professional support to manage the symptoms."

DR TIFFANI HOWELL

It's estimated that around 8% of Australian Defence Force members experienced PTSD in the past 12 months.

Symptoms can include anxiety, flashbacks, negative thoughts and feelings and night terrors, which can make something as simple as leaving the house challenging.

Centre for Service and Therapy Dogs Australia (CSTDA) General Manager, Kevin Picker said waking a veteran with PTSD from a night terror is just one of the ways that assistance animals can improve their quality of life.

He describes how some veterans can become petrified of falling asleep because they become fearful of having another night reliving their past trauma. They become tired and on edge and the sleep deprivation impacts every aspect of their life.

An assistance dog can help alleviate their anguish.

The animal is trained to be attuned to their owner's unconscious signals, so it notices their quickened breath and movements in the bed and nuzzles them until they wake up.

"The results are unbelievable. We've seen people re-engage with their families, go on holidays with their mates for the first time in years and be ready to return to work," Kevin said.

Another example of how a dog can empower a veteran to venture out into society is if they know that the dog can detect when they may be about to experience a flashback.

A trigger could be something as subtle as the smell of diesel as a veteran walks past a service station.

"They might start getting anxious and not know where they are, so they start to disassociate and their past trauma may reappear," he said.

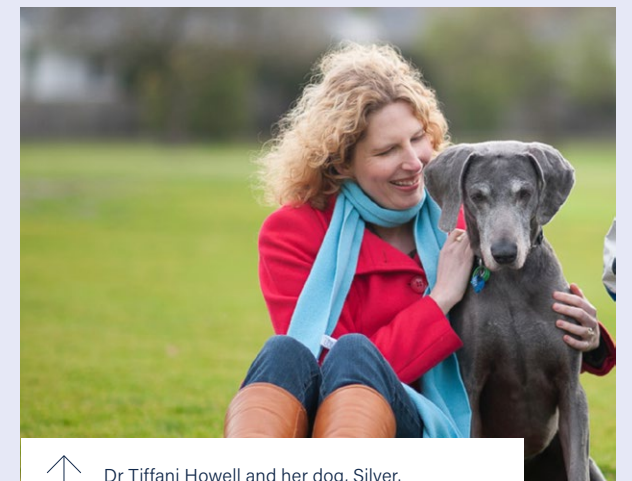
"If they have a highly trained dog that understands that this is happening to them, they can respond immediately by jumping, licking and pushing them — forcing them back to reality."

"Now this person is no longer afraid to walk outside alone because they know they have an assistance dog that will intervene before the terror takes hold."

KEVIN PICKER

Kevin said training assistance dogs takes years. The animals are selected based on their breed, characteristics and lineage.

They've found the best results come from pairing the puppy with a foster family, who nurtures it for the first few years of life.



↑ Dr Tiffani Howell and her dog, Silver.

Afterwards, the CSTDA trainers and therapists, which include occupational therapists, counsellors and social workers, work with the dog and train it to detect, respond and de-escalate a situation.

It then needs to integrate into its owner's environment.

It's an intensive process, as each veteran's needs are different.

"What our team looks at is what is preventing that person from living their life," Kevin said.

"And we then train that person how to use a dog to address their challenge and we train a dog how to work with that person to address their challenge."



If this article has raised any concerns for you, please contact:

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- Australian Defence Health and Well-being Portal **'Fighting Fit'**
- **Suicide Call Back Service** on 1300 659 467
- **Beyond Blue** on 1300 22 46 36
- **Headspace** on 1800 650 890
- **MensLine Australia** on 1300 789 978
- To access support through RSL Victoria, please contact Veteran Central via 1300 MILVET

Find out more about the Department of Veterans' Affairs Assistance Dog Program: www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/care-home-or-aged-care/services-support-you-home/assistance-dogs

THE UNKNOWN SAILOR'S LONG JOURNEY HOME

Author
Lisa Cooper

Photos
Defence Images
and the Australian
War Memorial

It was an Australian wartime mystery that spanned eight decades. However, the identity of the unknown sailor whose remains were found floating in a life raft off Christmas Island in early 1942 has finally been confirmed.

With Australia already in the grip of war, December 1941 began with the nation learning of the tragic news that HMAS *Sydney* (II) had disappeared off the West Australian coast. With no word from the cruiser, nor any survivor or trace of wreckage found in the days and weeks after, Australians feared the worst.

Newspaper headlines across the country formally announced the tragedy, reading, 'HMAS Sydney Missing Presumed Sunk' and that the Sydney was 'missing with all hands'.

It must have been horrifying news for relatives of Sydney's crew.

HMAS *Sydney* had engaged in an intense battle with the German raider *Kormoran* (HSK-8) on 19 November 1941. The *Kormoran* had deceived the *Sydney* by reportedly disguising itself with a Norwegian flag. The *Sydney* sank about 120 nautical miles (222 km) west of Steep Point, WA.

As the *Sydney*'s arrival became further and further overdue, Australian authorities and relatives of those onboard were forced to consider that their worst fears had been realised.

When announcing that HMAS *Sydney* was missing, then Prime Minister Curtin said, "Information has been received from the Australian Naval Board that H.M.A.S. Sydney had been in action with a heavily armed enemy merchant raider which she sank by gunfire.



→ **Top** HMAS *Sydney* (II). Image via the Australian War Memorial.

Bottom A Carley float, associated with HMAS *Sydney* (II) displayed almost continuously since June 1942, at the Australian War Memorial. A Carley life float, the sole relic of HMAS *Sydney*'s last engagement. Damaged by machine gun and shellfire, with two empty lifebelts lying in it, this float was recovered from the sea by HMAS *Heros*, 200 miles from Carnarvon on 27 November 1941. Image via the Australian War Memorial.

"No subsequent communication has been received from the *Sydney* and the Government, regrets to say it must be presumed that she has been lost."

At the time of the announcement, Minister for the Navy, Norman Makin, advised that the area where the *Sydney* disappeared had been "thoroughly searched by ships and planes" and that the search would continue "with all means available".

Flags were lowered to half-mast across Sydney in tribute to the lost cruiser.

Almost three months later, in early February 1942, a Carley float was discovered near Rocky Point, off Christmas Island. The Carley float contained the remains of a man clothed in a blue boilersuit which was said to have been bleached by sun exposure.

Eventually buried at Geraldton War Cemetery in an unmarked grave, the identity of the sailor remained a mystery, until last year.

Then Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, announced on 19 November 2021 — the 80th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS *Sydney* — that new DNA evidence had confirmed Able Seaman (AB) Thomas Welsby Clark, from New Farm in Brisbane, as the previously unidentified sailor.

AB Clark is believed to be the only sailor to have made it to a life raft after the ship went down. Despite surviving both the battle and the sinking, Thomas tragically died alone at sea in the Carley.

The formal identification of AB Clark's remains was said to be a significant development in *Sydney*'s story and an historic moment for Australia. It was only possible by DNA samples collected from the body in 2006 which were extensively tested over the last 15 years. These tests revealed both mitochondrial DNA passed from mother to child, and Y chromosome DNA passed from father to son.



Did you know?

The Carley life float (*Admiralty Seamanship Manual* 1956 terminology) was the principal method of lifesaving equipment during WWII, fitted to all warships, and not superseded by the present form of inflatable life rafts until the mid-1950s.



↑ Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO RAN, with a portrait of Ordinary Seaman (OS) Thomas Welsby Clark in front of the Wall of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Image via Defence Images.

Research facilitated by the Sea Power Centre — Australia successfully identified two living direct relatives.

"To finally learn Tom's name, rank, service number and hometown 80 years after he was lost is truly remarkable," Minister Gee said.

"It says a lot about Australia that, despite the decades that have passed, our nation is still working so hard to identify those lost in war and ensuring we honour the sacred commitment to remember them."

ANDREW GEE



HMAS *Sydney's* (II) Unknown Sailor relative, Dr Leigh Lehane, with her husband Robert Lehane (centre). Naval Historian Mr John Perryman of the Sea Power Centre (Left) and Naval Researcher, Commander Greg Swinden, RAN (right) stand on the flanks. Image via Defence Images.

"Of Sydney's total complement of 645 men, no one survived. This included six Royal Australian Air Force members, eight Royal Navy personnel and four civilian canteen staff. Eighty-two officers and sailors were killed in Kormoran," said Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mike Noonan.

It took a remarkable team of specialists and experts to solve this 80 year-old mystery from World War II, including specialists in DNA analysis, forensic pathology and dentistry, ballistics, anthropology, archaeology and naval history.

"The Australian Federal Police National DNA Program for Unidentified and Missing Persons was instrumental, as were the Australian National University, Australian War Memorial, University of Adelaide and University of Sydney, not to mention Able Seaman Thomas Clark's family," said Vice Admiral Noonan.

Thomas Welsby Clark was born on 28 January 1920. He enlisted in the Army on 14 March 1939 aged 19 years and two months but was discharged to join the Royal Australian Navy in August 1940. He joined the crew of the *Sydney* a year later, on 19 August 1941.

Reports at the time described AB Clark as being "distinguished in his ability in swimming" and having followed in his grandfather's footsteps as "taking a keen interest in yachting".

Dr Leigh Lehane, a retired academic, said at the time of the announcement that she was surprised and saddened to learn her uncle Tom was the unknown sailor.

"To be quite honest, it was a bit upsetting," she said.

However, Dr Lehane said establishing the truth was important.

"I am so grateful for the many, many people, well over a hundred, who helped ascertain the truth about his identity."

DR LEIGH LEHANE

Dr Lehane was born in July 1941, the month before her uncle Tom joined *Sydney*. According to a family story, he met his new niece on a final visit to Brisbane.

"He came and held me as a little baby. That's a very pleasurable thought because I don't think anyone else is alive now who knew Tom sort of eye to eye."

DR LEIGH LEHANE

The 'Unknown Sailor' is unknown no more. Eighty years after his death, Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark has made the long journey home, back to his family.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT RSL VICTORIA

Author

Aileen Phillips

Photos

James McPherson

With perhaps more information than we've ever had before about the veteran community thanks to the latest census, and the ongoing Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, RSL Victoria's new CEO Sue Cattermole looks forward to leading RSL Victoria and honing its services to meet the needs of veterans and their families.

Following an extensive recruitment process, Sue Cattermole has taken the helm after serving as the Group CEO at St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria.

She said she was drawn to the position because she has a strong alignment to the mission of the organisation.

"It was a really deliberate application for me to make because it's a long standing and established organisation that is really well-known in the community for its amazing work with veterans. People who have served their country deserve the support they require and to transition back to civilian life or to build a life post their service," Sue said.



RSL Victoria's new CEO Sue Cattermole.

RSL Victoria said throughout the recruitment process, Sue demonstrated a deep understanding of the complex issues facing the veteran community.

"I have worked with veterans as part of providing services to the broad community and I've had insights around that. I recognise the unique needs of veterans and their families whose whole lives have been impacted by the time that they served."

SUE CATTERMOLE

Sue believes she will bring several complementary skills and experiences from her previous positions.

“Much like the RSL, there is a clear and compelling mission supported by an extraordinarily strong volunteer component to the work at Vinnies. So, the volunteer engagement is familiar, but the business model is also quite similar. It also has a successful commercial arm underpinning the welfare support services, two arms that need to work together to deliver the mission of the organisation and it has similar challenges in bringing the younger membership forward, connecting with the younger generations.”

Proud of her professional achievements to date, Sue said she will continue to draw on her networks to foster the best outcome for veterans and their families.

“Having worked in the frontline services of health, homelessness, family violence, drug and alcohol, and housing, I will continue to build on the relationships with government and other support services (ESOs and state government funded community services), which will be critical if we are to meet the growing needs of veterans and families out in the community.”

With a demonstrated record of growing and transforming organisations, Sue has a clear aspiration for RSL Victoria.

“One of our biggest challenges is how we welcome in the younger generations; how do we engage with them because they are our future. That’s a really important group of people. We have to connect and communicate and work together to build the RSL of the future.”

SUE CATTERMOLLE

Sue said she is also focused on the new Strategic Plan due out next year.

“I would really like to see a strong engagement with Sub-Branches in the development of that Strategic Plan, a real conversation about the future of the RSL services and governance, and a commitment to put veterans and families at the heart of what we do.”



← RSL Victoria's new CEO Sue Cattermole with State President, Dr Robert Webster OAM.

As the veteran community faces a critical opportunity to address the impact of Defence and veteran suicide in Australia, Sue wants to make sure RSL Victoria listens and helps inform in the wake of the Royal Commission.

On a more uplifting note, Sue said despite entering such a well-established organisation with many dedicated and loyal staff, she's felt welcomed.

She said she looks forward to working with and building relationships with her new team at RSL Victoria, the wider Sub-Branch network, members and volunteers.

“Organisations like the RSL need to exist in partnership, whether it be with government, ex-service organisations or the community, and with veterans.”

SUE CATTERMOLLE

On a personal level, Sue likes to keep her own family history alive. Her father, who came from a tiny village in the north of England, served with the British Army in 1945 and was posted to a munitions camp in Austria.

“He had never left his village before that. He is in his 90s now and he still relays his stories. It's clear what an impact that had on him and he still talks about things that happened in those years.”

As RSL Victoria heads into the annual Poppy Appeal, Sue looks forward to being part of such an integral time for the organisation and veteran community.

“It's a well-run machine. I am looking forward to the ceremonies, the recognition, the remembering. It's really wonderful to be part of. It's something unique to the RSL and brings the whole organisation and community together for a common purpose.”

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LEADING LADIES

Author
Sue Smethurst

Photos
Robert Blackburn
James McPherson

A record number of Victorian RSL Sub-Branches have female Presidents. Meet two of this cohort; President of the Hampton RSL Sub-Branch Helen Ward and President of the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch Colette Shaw.

As dawn broke over Hampton beach last ANZAC Day, Helen Ward began to see the faces of the thousand-strong crowd gathered around her.

A sense of gratitude was clear in the eyes of the young and old, joined together in the brisk early morning to pay their respects to Australia's fallen.

In that moment, Commander Ward, a 30-year Navy veteran, felt an overwhelming sense of pride and relief that her first Dawn Service as the newly elected President of the Hampton RSL Sub-Branch had gone off without a hitch.

“It was a wonderful feeling. I could see so many young faces in the crowd, people who want to be involved and hungry to learn more.”

HELEN WARD

At the same moment, many kilometres away on the outskirts of Melbourne, business manager, Colette Shaw was also taking in the enormity of the morning in her new role as President of the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch.



↑ President of the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch, Colette Shaw.

“I am so proud of the position and so proud to be involved with a club that means so much to my community.”

COLETTE SHAW



↑ President of the Hampton RSL Sub-Branch, Helen Ward.

“I had a few people say to me, ‘But you’re not a veteran, the President should be someone who has served’, and my response is very simple — Why should our veterans, who have already given so much service to this country, now have to come and give service to other veterans? Why can’t I do what I can to support them?”

Colette and Helen are part of a new generation of women presiding over RSL Sub-Branches across Victoria. At the moment, a record 16 RSL Sub-Branches in Victoria have female Presidents, and Colette and Helen hope they can encourage more women to join them.

**

Helen Ward (56) has enjoyed a distinguished career with the Navy.

After enlisting when she was 21 and training at HMAS Creswell, the biochemist began her Defence career in a teaching role, progressing through the ranks working on a variety of projects including the Department of Defence's Land 400 project, delivering the next generations of armoured vehicles for the Army.

In 2007, Helen was deployed to Iraq, working on shore with the media operations team in Baghdad. It was considered the deadliest year of the Iraq War, with a peak armed force of 170,000 troops battling sustained insurgent uprisings.

Despite decades serving, it was only after Helen returned from Iraq that she joined her local RSL Victoria Sub-Branch. She'd previously felt RSLs were only for those who had served on the front line.

“I thought, ‘Now that I’ve returned from something, I can join the RSL,’ which is the very barrier we are trying to break down because that’s not how the RSL is today,” she said.

“Veterans are everyone who serves in any capacity, from Reservists to those who’ve served at the front line and those just starting a career in Defence, we want everyone to come to the RSL and be a part of that community. And we want to ensure the Sub-Branch is totally welcoming and inclusive of everyone.”

HELEN WARD

Helen's initial involvement was about getting together with friends and colleagues, but she very quickly rolled up her sleeves for battle when the Sub-Branch was threatened with closure.

Today the Hampton RSL Sub-Branch is thriving.

The Sub-Branch has installed a Gallipoli Memorial Garden and recently unveiled a replica of the Long Tan Cross and their next project is a tribute to those buried at the Western Front. Each week they welcome students from local Bayside schools, teaching the history of those from their community who served and lost their lives.

“There are incredible stories of service and sacrifice all around us and that’s the message we want to get across. It’s so important for the current generation to know this history.”

HELEN WARD

As of 30 June 2020, the participation rate of women in the permanent ADF reached 19.2% while women make up 45.4% of the Defence Australian Public Service (APS) nationally. In Victoria, 45% of the RSL membership is women, with more than 80,000 female members.

Colette Shaw (50) encourages women to put their hand up for roles. Four years ago, the businesswoman joined her local Healesville RSL Sub-Branch after offering to help with its ANZAC Day commemorations.

Soon after, she was invited to join the committee and when long-serving President Brian Luscombe stepped down from the role, he asked Colette to become President of the 102-year-old Sub-Branch.

As she is not a service member of the RSL, it was simply a matter of seeking approval from RSL Victoria who naturally supported her appointment.

“Although I haven’t served, my maternal grandfather served in World War II and my dad was a Reservist, so I have strong connections. But first and foremost, I’m very community minded and I believe if you can help serve your community, you should,” she said.

“I’m very passionate about supporting our veterans and the veteran community. The community should be looking after our veterans, they shouldn’t have to rely on one another.”

COLETTE SHAW



Top The Long Tan Cross memorial at the Hampton RSL Sub-Branch.

Bottom Colette Shaw inside the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch.

Colette, who has built a career in sales and business and recently completed a master’s degree, has now applied to join the Army Reserve. It was something she has wanted to do since she was 17 years old.

“I get a profound sense of satisfaction from helping others, I really do love it and I’ve always had a community-service mindset. I’ve gained so much experience from my RSL role and I want others to have that same feeling.”

Like Helen, Colette is focused on encouraging younger veterans and younger people in the community to become involved.

“It’s a fantastic feeling when you can do something to help someone else,” Colette said.

“There is a palpable sense of friendship and camaraderie at these Sub-Branches. There’s always someone up for a cup of coffee and a chat — everyone has a place here,” Helen said.

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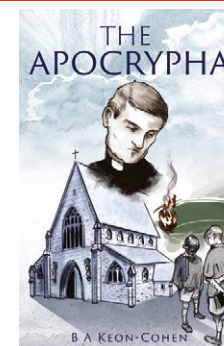


ISBN: 978-1-925707-89-2

This is my story, about a group of young boys forced to find their way in a man’s world. The story starts with a throwaway statement ‘let’s join sea cadets’. This led to us enlist as junior recruits at *HMAS Leeuwin* in Western Australia a couple of years later.

Entering the gates of Leeuwin changed us. We were a dynamic group of free-spirited fifteen-year-old boys that became a guarded group attempting to meld into the rigor and discipline of the training regime.

Starting as ‘New Grubs’, we progressed through each status of ‘Grubs’, ‘Shits’, and finally ‘Top Shits’. These progressions of status in many ways modelled us into becoming a cohesive group of disciplined young men who would easily assimilate into the Navy.

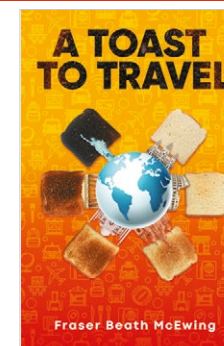


ISBN: 978-1-925707-92-2

Young boys and girls are sexually abused by Father O’Halloran at a parish church choir in Melbourne. A secret self-help society, The Apocrypha, is organised by victims Ashley and Keith at their school. The Society members engage in a bizarre Competition while Secretary Keith records the offending priest’s abuse in notebooks.

The secret Society is discovered, raided by teachers and Ashley is interrogated by the Principal. A young “Apocryphal” suicides at school and O’Halloran is quickly removed by church authorities to a mountain retreat.

Years later, Ashley and Keith and their girlfriends, Samantha and Felicity, all “survivors” and all damaged, navigate life in their twenties as best they can. Will the Apocryphals bring O’Halloran to account once and for all and finally achieve “justice” or will their old demons resurface to make life miserable again?



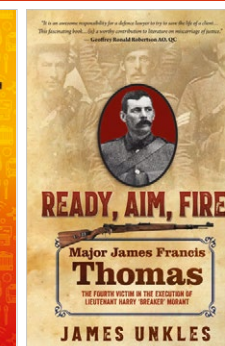
ISBN: 978-1-925707-86-1

Most travel writing flatters destinations and how to get there – but not this book. While Fraser Beath McEwing loves travel, he has a wicked eye for absurdities, stuff-ups and grim realities, all narrated by a supreme humorist. Beginning in 2020 with a trip to India, he goes back to 2013, through many countries and odd places.

He tells of the good, the bad and the ugly, laced with history and quirky facts, and he regularly reports frankly on the hotel toasters he encounters at breakfast times.

If you want to take a flying carpet ride to discover perfection and beauty, this is not for you.

But if you want to laugh out loud, welcome to *A Toast to Travel*.

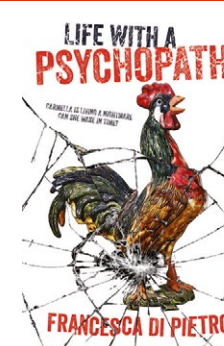


ISBN: 978-1-925230-50-5

In 1902, three Australian volunteers who served with the British Army during the Anglo Boer War were tried and sentenced for executing Boer combatants. Lieutenants Harry ‘Breaker’ Morant and Peter Handcock were executed and George Witton sentenced to life imprisonment.

The manner in which these men were treated remains controversial, shrouded in protest that they were scapegoated for the war crimes of their British superiors.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Major James Francis Thomas who was relegated to history without an understanding of who he was and the part he played in the dynamic development of the town of Tenterfield in New South Wales. It acknowledges the sacrifice Thomas made in acting for his clients, a task that took a terrible toll on his mental and physical health and his life in Tenterfield.



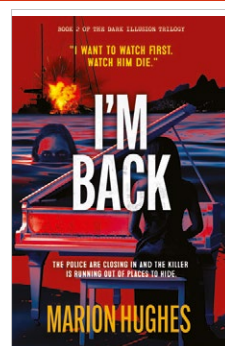
ISBN: 978-1-925707-71-7

Carmella is an intelligent and confident woman. She’s overcome bullying and racism in her childhood and built a successful life for herself.

When Carmella meets the charming Shaun, she thinks she’s hit the jackpot. Recovering from a rocky first date, the relationship develops into a promising connection, but then degenerates, in stages, into an abusive disaster.

The previously strong Carmella finds herself adhering to insane rules set by Shaun.

Just as Carmella thinks her life has hit rock bottom, she obtains the assistance of gifted psychologist who offers her a fresh perspective. Is this crucial support enough for Carmella to find the strength to leave Shaun or will she be stuck in this terrifying nightmare forever?



ISBN: 978-1-925707-96-0

True to her word, Angelina Lorenzo sets out to exact her revenge on those next on her list. But police are closing in, and she is running out of places to hide.

Killing has been easy up until the failed attempt on her sister’s life. This time, there will be no mistakes. She hires an assassin, who unwittingly finds himself caught in Angelina’s treacherous web. Can he bring himself to do the unthinkable just to keep Angelina in his life?

“Who was she (Angelina) really? What made her like this?” One of the minor characters, Elena asks these questions of the enigma that is the main character, Angelina. A fast-moving, thrilling read.”

— Judith Flitcroft, author of *Walk Back in Time*

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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Author
Sue Smethurst

Photos
James McPherson

Veterans Jim Dewar and Rob Edgell are part of a dedicated group working to educate the next generation about Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. On the 60th anniversary of Australia's involvement in the war, Jim and Rob share their story with *Mufti*.

Jim Dewar can vividly recall the moment he truly arrived in Vietnam, and it was long before he ever stepped foot in the country.

As the young soldier and his mates aboard HMAS *Sydney* sailed up the South China Sea towards the Vietnam coastline, the smell of war and the intense heat piqued their senses.

"We saw military vessels in the harbour and aircraft overhead and knew it was now game on," Jim recalled.

"Until then it'd been pretty relaxed on board. We sunbathed on deck, we were given plenty of food and we even had a beer ration, but suddenly it all became very serious. We were allocated weapons, issued with last-minute instructions and the next morning, American Chinooks arrived to fly us straight into Nui Dat. Within minutes we watched the ship disappear behind us and soon found ourselves in a fully active war situation surrounded by the unknown."

"We went from zero, to lean, mean killing machine."

JIM DEWAR

Jim Dewar was just 20 when his birth date was drawn in the controversial lotto-style National Service ballot in 1965. He was among the first to be conscripted to the Vietnam war, but his service was deferred so he could finish a hairdressing apprenticeship.

Three days after he graduated in 1966, Jim was off to Puckapunyal to begin training; one of 60,000 young Australians sent into battle.

It has been 60 years since Australian troops entered the Vietnam War, but there's not a day that goes by that Jim Dewar doesn't think about his time there. Together with a group of passionate fellow veterans, Jim has dedicated his retirement years to ensuring that the human story of Australians in Vietnam, and the lasting impact of their experiences, is understood by future generations.



↑ Vung Tau, South Vietnam. November 1968. Troopship carrier HMAS *Sydney* and two landing craft medium 8. The escort is HMAS *Duchess* on her third voyage escorting HMAS *Sydney* to Vietnam waters. Image credit the Australian War Memorial.

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Education Team, affectionately known as the E-Team, started from a single request to veteran Phil White OAM in 1989. When word spread about Phil's passionate and engaging presentation, more requests soon followed and the team of volunteers grew.

Prior to an enforced break during the COVID-19 pandemic, the group was speaking to around 6000 students every year, along with Probus, Rotary and other community clubs, and they've recently hit the road again.

"I think we have a slightly anti-war sentiment in the country at the moment," said President of the E-Team, Rob Edgell.

"Our presentations are not pro-war or against it, we keep a very balanced perspective. Our real message is that it's terribly damaging to go to war, and we have to look after our veterans."

ROB EDGELL

Rob Edgell was 19 years old when he was sent to Vietnam in June 1970 as part of the 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit. It was a baptism of fire as his first night with the 7RAR Battalion immediately followed a bloody contact with the Viet Cong. The platoon had taken some wounded and quite a number of the enemy were killed.

"From the moment we arrived we knew this was serious and we had a very clear understanding that we were in a war zone. We were fighting for our lives every day."

ROB EDGELL



↑ **Top** Aerial view of Nui Dat. Image credit the Australian War Memorial.

Bottom National Service recruits with their luggage lined up on the parade ground waiting to be allocated sleeping quarters. Image credit the Australian War Memorial.

Like so many veterans, Rob Edgell and Jim Dewar's time in the war zone didn't end when they arrived back in Australia. Both were plagued by their service, compounded by the anti-war sentiment they faced at home, and suffered PTSD at various stages of their lives.

"When I arrived back, Dad took me to a RSL Sub-Branch based in Melbourne's north-east to join up together," Rob said, "but they literally said to me, 'Come back when you've fought a real war'. What upset me most about that was seeing how much it upset my dad. Not long after, the Watsonia RSL Sub-Branch found out about the incident and contacted me inviting me to join them. At first, I wouldn't even speak to them I was so upset, but they persisted, and eventually we joined."

"Across the community there was an underlying tension towards Vietnam vets and, in the end, it was easier not to tell anyone you'd served in Vietnam."



When Jim Dewar returned after “12 months, 13 days” of service, he also found that Australia had changed. Heartbreakingly, one of Jim’s lifelong best mates turned his back on him. They didn’t speak to one another for more than five decades but were recently reunited.

“He refused to speak with me. That was tough. We recently bumped into one another at a friend’s funeral. The first thing he said to me was: ‘I’m sorry’. He was sorry for the way he treated me. It brings a tear to my eye thinking about it now,” Jim said.

“It was much more difficult to transition back into Australian society after Vietnam than it was to transition to Army life. I was a completely different person when I came home; my life had totally changed.”

JIM DEWAR

Rob and Jim agree the Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade in Sydney 1987 was a turning point for the veterans.

It changed the way many Australians viewed our involvement in Vietnam and encouraged veterans to open up about their experiences. So when Rob and Jim were asked if they’d share their stories as part of a program to educate future generations about war, they jumped at the chance.

Both agree that sharing their stories has been a cathartic and healing experience.

“My wife and kids knew very little about my service and I never talked to them about what happened in Vietnam. I was pretty messed up with PTSD for a while,” Jim said. “Talking to the students helped me get a lot of bad feelings out and I’ve found the school talks have been very therapeutic for me. One of my daughters asked if she could come along one day and hear me speak, which was lovely. She got a lot out of it, and we’ve become a lot closer since then.”

Rob Edgell said the students are very insightful and often ask very considered questions. However, at times the questions can be confronting.

↑ Jim Dewar and Rob Edgell.

“The first time I was asked if I’d killed someone, the question came from a young girl, a Year 12 student. It was a fair question, so I answered as truthfully as I could. Often, when I was at the point of bringing my weapon up to discharge, there were a lot of people behind me doing the same thing. I’m not sure if I fired the first or the fifth shot.”

ROB EDGELL

“We don’t glorify war, nor do we demean it. We talk about why Australia got into the war and the way we did, and we talk about how servicemen were treated in the hope that it never happens again. We want people to know to that war is not fun and it’s not fair. We want to get the message across about war by being open and as graphic as we can be without crossing a line.”

“We describe the hardships and the dangers and how people died. Good friends died right beside us.”

ROB EDGELL

Despite initial reluctance, Jim and Rob have both returned to Vietnam since their service and found the experience to be enjoyable, immersing themselves in the culture, the people, the food and the beautiful scenery of Vietnam; a far cry from their experiences during their first tour of duty.

Rob Edgell said his initial nerves about returning were very quickly overcome.

“I was worried about how it would affect me, but I loved the food and the people, and it was a really enjoyable experience.”

It’s a sentiment Jim shares.

“I enjoyed it so much I went back a second time. I’d seen the animosity in the place and the war mongering, it was a totally different experience to see the country and the people through very different eyes, but happily that chapter is closed for me now.”



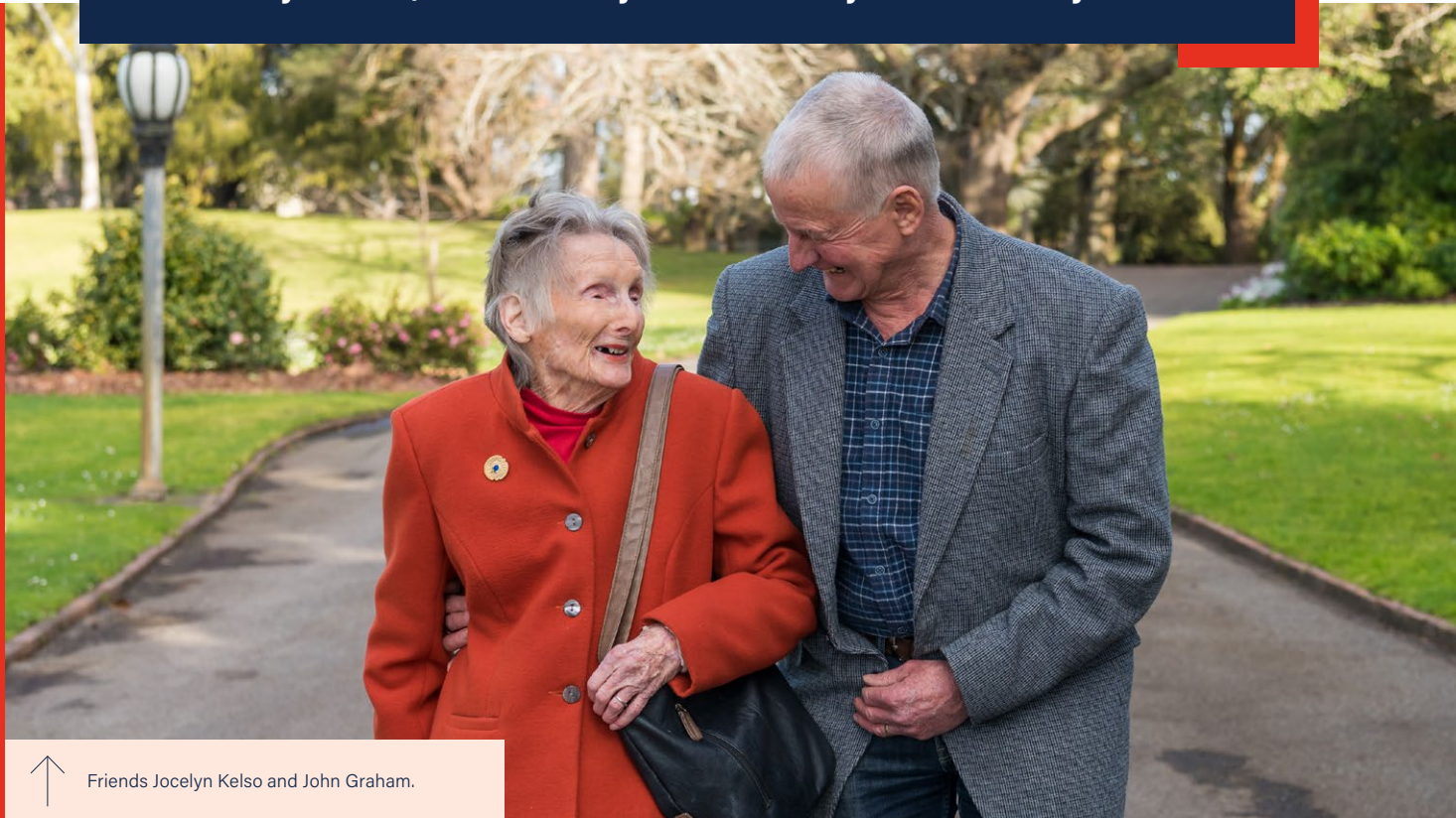
To book a talk from the Vietnam Veterans’ Education team go to www.facebook.com/VietnamVeteransAssocAustraliaVicBranchEduc/

FRIENDSHIP AND RECOGNITION

Author
Sue Smethurst

Photos
James McPherson

Service at Monterey base in Albert Park during World War II was top secret. Now at 96 years old, veteran Jocelyn Kelso is ready to tell her story of service.



↑ Friends Jocelyn Kelso and John Graham.

During her first days at Monterey, newly enlisted Women's Royal Australian Navy Service (WRAN), recruit Jocelyn Smith was shown a secret cabinet where her American superiors kept a pistol and was given strict instructions about how the weapon was to be used if the Japanese invaded Melbourne.

Death by her own hand would be more merciful than torture, her commanders explained.

It was a brutal baptism of war for the 19-year-old secretary from Geelong who boarded a train "with butterflies in her stomach" to join the war effort to "do her bit", and unwittingly became a spy.

During World War II, Jocelyn Smith (now Jocelyn Kelso) was one of 80 young women handpicked to work at the top-secret Monterey base in Albert Park after they enlisted with the Navy. Monterey was a joint operation between American, British and Australian Naval Forces — Australia's version of Bletchley Park — and the WRANS worked around the clock intercepting and decoding messages sent between Japanese forces.

The women vowed to never tell a soul about their highly classified work and although the Leading Writer was discharged from official duty in July 1946, Jocelyn kept that promise for almost eight decades.

Now 96, Jocelyn is sharing her story and thanks to her good friend and legatee, John Graham, she is finally being recognised for her service with a special medal from the UK Government and Bletchley Park.

"I don't know that I ever really sat my family down and told them what I did. No one really spoke about the war, we all just got on with our lives. I told my grandson first because he was very interested in history and he said to me, 'Nan you were a spy!'."

JOCELYN KELSO

"I think we achieved a lot in hindsight, but I never thought of myself as a hero — we just did what anyone would do under the circumstances. What I did was nothing compared to a lot of others," she said humbly.

The Monterey unit operated in Albert Park between 1942 and October 1944. The codebreakers are credited for playing a significant role in the allied victories in the Pacific, including the destruction of a Japanese convoy of more than 5000 army reinforcements and the death of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, which proved a devastating blow to Japanese morale.

The women were threatened with prison if they told a single soul about their work and most dutifully took their secrets to the grave. Consequently, few were ever acknowledged for the incredible role they played in our war effort.

In 2010, UK Prime Minister David Cameron struck a medal to recognise all those who served with Bletchley Park, an honour extended to their Australian comrades, including those who worked at the Monterey unit.

When former research scientist John Graham retired, he joined Hamilton & District Legacy to give back to the generation he describes as "selfless, stoic and heroic", and became Jocelyn's legatee.

Jocelyn's husband, Keith Kelso, served in the Air Force but Keith passed away more than 30 years ago. John's help and support was welcomed by the fiercely independent widow.

"The first day I turned up, I noticed there was a broken picture frame by the door. I said to her, 'I can fix that'. She was thrilled to get the job done and it broke the ice. We started chatting and after a while she said to me, 'You know I served as well. I'm a widow but I served in the war too.' And I hadn't known that. That's when she started to tell me her story," John said. "It didn't take much for me to realise this lady was well worthy of recognition."

John contacted Bletchley Park in England. Within a few months the medal was on its way to Hamilton in Western Victoria, where Jocelyn lives.



↑ The Bletchley Park commemorative badge. This badge recognises the vital service of those who worked at Bletchley Park and outposts like the Monterey base provided during World War II.

"I don't think what I did was anything noble and I didn't really want any fuss about it, but it's lovely to receive the medal. When I signed up, I was just happy to be sent wherever I was needed."

JOCELYN KELSO

John Graham is thrilled that Bletchley Park acted so quickly on his request for Jocelyn to be recognised and he is organising a special presentation with the Hamilton RSL Sub-Branch for her to be formally honoured. He has now been Jocelyn's legatee for more than a year; a relationship he treasures.

MORE SALT AND PEPPER IN THE ROOM

Author
Aaron Langmaid

Photos
Defence Images and
Ivan Benitez-Aguirre

Growing up in Ecuador and New York City, a career in the Royal Australian Air Force was far from Ivan Benitez-Aguirre's mind. The now Wing Commander shares his story exclusively with Mufti.

Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Ivan Benitez-Aguirre has conquered much during an extensive career in the Australian Defence Force.

But there is one thing he is yet to master.

After calling Australia home for more than 34 years — he still doesn't have an Aussie accent.

"My kids all sound Australian because they were born and grew up here, but I don't have one [an accent] at all," he said.

"I guess I came too late to make it a part of my phonetics."

The twang of the Aussie vernacular — known for its long vowels and inflections — had first stumped the young teenage immigrant.

Born in Ecuador, he moved with his family to New York City where he completed high school before shifting to Australia in 1988.

"Australian English was slightly different, and it took some getting used to," WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre said.

These days the 49-year-old is far more at ease with the Aussie turn of phrase.

"Now when I hear the familiar Australian accent it just feels like home."

In fact, the Wing Commander's adept skills with the English, Spanish and Portuguese languages has led to his formal recognition as a Defence Force linguist, serving as an interpreter for non-speaking military brass at high-level meetings.

"It feels amazing to know you are not only serving in an important role but to also be acknowledged for it."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE



↑ During his RAAF service Ivan has been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.



↑ **Top** Ivan and his family at the Australian War Memorial.

Bottom Ivan says, "I see my Defence service as a way to acknowledge and demonstrate my appreciation of the great opportunities Australia has given my family."



WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre is among an increasing number of immigrant Australians who have embraced a career in the ADF.

Yet it might never have happened were it not for the tenacity of his parents, who he credits for making the difficult decision to move to an unfamiliar country on the other side of the world.

"They left their established lives and professions, their family and friends and all their valued possessions, and gathered the strength to leave and not look back."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE

The move paid off.

WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre's entire family was granted the chance to fulfill their dreams.

His younger sister Cynthia became a senior government lawyer. His brothers Paul and Terry became a paediatric specialist and senior public servant respectively. WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Having completed training and postings in everything from air traffic control to military public affairs and command appointments, WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre has since notched up deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

He was most recently embedded as a senior ADF officer in the NATO mission, Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

For his efforts, he was awarded a United States Meritorious Service Medal, a Resolute Support (RS) Mission Commander's (4 Star General) Commendation and a RS Chief of Staff (3 Star General) Commendation and the Italian Cooperation Cross.

Those who have worked closely with WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre suggest he hasn't just set a path for other migrants to follow; he has become somewhat of a trailblazer, changing attitudes and breaking down the stereotype so commonly associated with the image of the average Australian Defence Force recruit.

"When I landed in Iraq on my first deployment as part of the Coalition Forces in 2003, people would ask where I was from and when I told them, 'Australia' they wouldn't believe me."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE

"I obviously didn't look like the typical Australian recruits, so I almost felt like I had to prove myself."

In the years that followed, he said more migrants have charted a career than ever before.

Though he admits there is still work to be done.

He remains the only full-time, Ecuadorian-born Air Force member.

WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre still remembers attending a 2010 commanding officers' conference and being the only tan-skinned officer in the room.

He joked with them at the time, using humour to make a serious point.

"I told them we needed a bit more salt and pepper in the room. Everybody laughed but I know they understood what I meant."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE

More than a decade on, the number of non-European Defence members is on the rise.

"There are young people from multiple backgrounds — Asian and Indian, African and Latin America — and I think the more we can make provision for them, the more they can understand the enormous opportunity before them," WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre said.

"People who come from other cultures and other countries bring great skills that are needed and wanted and appreciated."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE

A Defence spokesperson said that a diverse and inclusive Australian Defence Force continues to enhance the Force's capacity to respond to the rapidly evolving strategic environment.

"Defence aims to attract the best talent, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and provides a range of opportunities for Australian citizens from a broad range of backgrounds, skills, expertise and interests," the spokesperson said.

WG CDR Benitez-Aguirre said he now feels that he is not only an Australian — but somebody who has contributed to the rich fabric of the ANZAC spirit.

"I am proud to be considered, even in a small part, as contributing to the ANZAC tradition, especially now that my oldest son is also a serving officer in the Australian Army and my two youngest children are in the Air Force cadets."

IVAN BENITEZ-AGUIRRE



↑ Ivan's skills with English, Spanish and Portuguese languages have lead him to be a Defence Force linguist, often serving as an interpreter for non-speaking military at high-level meetings.

"Through this, we have begun new traditions, linked to our new home and country, while at the same time we aim to keep the many valuable customs and traditions from our people.

"I see my Defence service as a way to acknowledge and demonstrate my appreciation of the great opportunities Australia has given my family, and through my service I feel a great satisfaction and integration into Australian society and culture.

"I can proudly say that Australia is a fair land — not perfect — but very fair. It is a place where anyone who works hard, has discipline, drive and passion can achieve their dreams."

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RSL
Victoria

EAST GIPPSLAND COAST AND BEYOND

Author
Sandy Guy

Photos
Sandy Guy,
Tourism Victoria
and Destination
Gippsland

East Gippsland is a popular holiday destination for several reasons. Lakes, rainforest, amazing hospitality and a gateway to the Snowy Mountains.

Geothermal waters are naturally pure products long known for their therapeutic benefits — ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians all enjoyed a tranquil hot springs soak.

In the 1960s, Metung became the home of Victoria's first hot springs bathing experience, which locals called the Hot Pools.

The public pools, which closed in 1996, were fed by a 500-metre-deep bore originally drilled for oil in the 1920s, producing geothermal mineral water at a balmy 45 °C.

The warm waters will soon be flowing again in this picturesque village, 313 km east of Melbourne, with the opening of Metung Hot Springs, which feature glorious views of Lake King.

When completed in spring 2022, the Hot Springs complex will feature geothermal hot pools, bathing barrels, massaging thermal showers, a day spa and safari glamping tents.

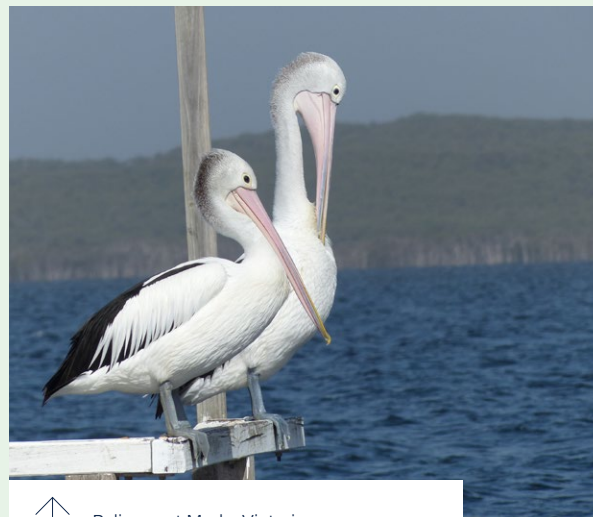
Lake King is one of three main lakes — along with Lake Victoria and Lake Wellington — forming the Gippsland Lakes, a network of lakes, marshes and lagoons that cover more than 600 square kilometres and make up Australia's largest inland waterways.

Surrounded on three sides by water, Metung was known as Rosherville in the days it was a popular holiday spot for Gippsland's gentry and well-heeled Melburnians, who travelled to Sale by train and then steamer to the town, situated on the shores of Bancroft Bay.

The Rosherville Hotel was built in 1870 and has been Metung's epicentre ever since. Today the Metung Hotel sits on the same prominent site on the water's edge.

Locals and visitors amble into town along wooden boardwalks. They watch pelicans catching their lunch before retiring to the hotel to dine on anything from contemporary fusion cuisine to traditional pub classics.

It's a 20 km drive north of Metung to busier Lakes Entrance, which has been unashamedly geared towards tourism since holidaymakers called it by its original name, Cunninghame, in the 1870s.



↑ Pelicans at Marlo, Victoria.



↑ Coastal waters at West Cape Conran.

By the dawn of the 20th century the town, situated at the entrance to the Gippsland Lakes and the northern end of Victoria's magnificent Ninety Mile Beach, boasted many guest houses catering to holidaymakers.

These days there's no end of motels, including the Lakes Entrance RSL Glenara Motel, apartments and caravan parks to choose from in the town, renamed Lakes Entrance in 1915.

Lakes Entrance is home to one of Australia's largest commercial fishing fleets and is a good place to stock up on fresh seafood.

From Lakes Entrance, it's 46 km north to Lake Tyers — made up of the lake itself, the small town of Lake Tyers Beach, and the Aboriginal Trust land known as Bung Yarnda, which is not accessible to the general public.

This region contains many Indigenous sites, including shell middens, scarred trees, occupation sites, burials and axe-grinding grooves.

The Bataluk Cultural Trail follows traditional routes used by the Gunaikurnai people for more than 30,000 years, extending from Sale through Mitchell River National Park to Cape Conran.

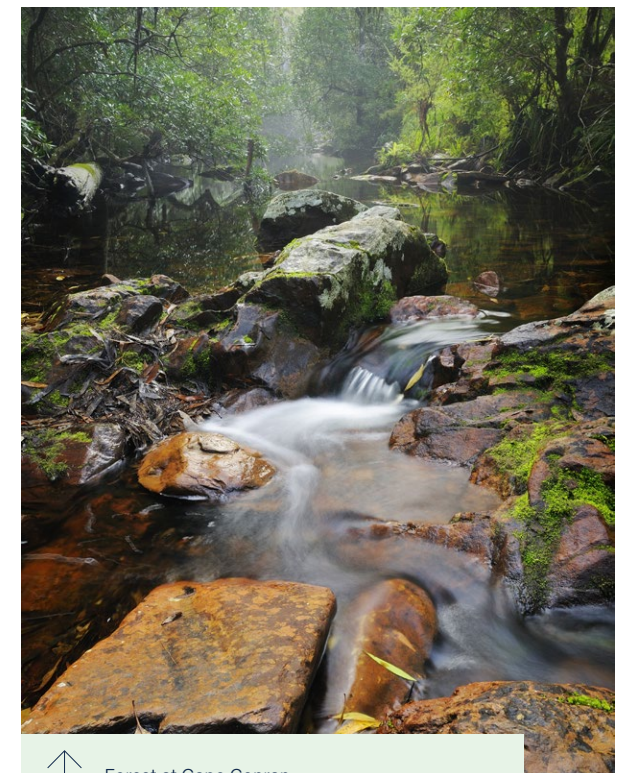
The Lake Tyers State Park, which covers 7100 hectares, extends from Lake Tyers Beach to Mount Nowa Nowa.

Tall eucalypt forests surround the northern shores of the lake, and a sand spit divides the placid lake from the pounding waters of Bass Strait.

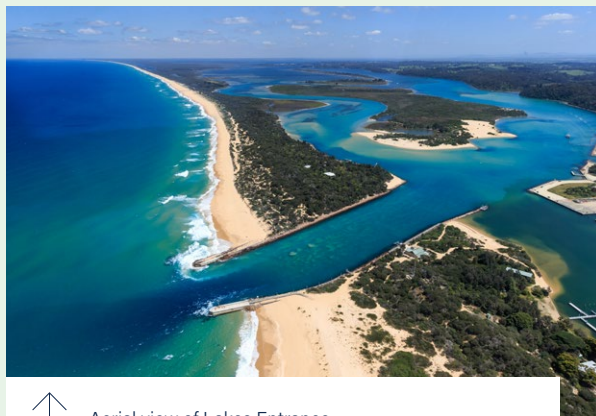
From Lake Tyers it is 20 km north by road to Nowa Nowa, an historic timber town that is home to several art galleries and a funky retro caravan park.

A network of hiking trails at Nowa Nowa includes the 1.2 km Sculpture Walk; 1.4 km Boggy Creek Walk; and 4.3 km Rail Ramble on part of the East Gippsland Rail Trail, which takes you to an old trestle bridge.

Orbost, 40 km east of Nowa Nowa, is a small town with a big history: situated on the legendary Snowy River, the area around Orbost was settled in the 1840s, and the town from the 1870s.



↑ Forest at Cape Conran.



↑ Aerial view of Lakes Entrance.

This bustling town has a rich history of riverboats and steamers, gold, agriculture and timber milling, and is ideal for a pitstop.

The Snowy River starts as an icy mountain stream on the slopes of Mt Kosciusko in NSW, flowing northwards before swinging south into Victoria and entering the sea at the sleepy seaside town of Marlo, 500 km from its source.

Marlo, 15 km downstream from Orbost, boasts sheltered waters ideal for river, estuary, lake and ocean fishing, where anglers reel in silver trevally, flathead and bream.

Fisherfolk cast a line at the town's jetty, where the sunsets are simply spectacular, as they are from the deck of the Marlo Hotel.

The Marlo Hotel has been an institution in these remote parts since it was established 1886, when the town was busy with steamers and schooners ferrying agricultural produce between Orbost and Melbourne.

Perched on a hill overlooking the silvery Snowy River estuary, this fine tavern features wide verandas where alfresco dining includes local beef and seafood.

On the menu may be Lakes Entrance scallops, Pambula oysters, big local steaks, and the *piece de resistance* — a rich seafood chowder of fresh local seafood.

Many enjoying dining at the Marlo Hotel have driven 18 km from Cape Conran's Banksia Bluff campground, part of the Cape Conran Coastal Park, 11,700 hectares of heathlands and woodlands fronting 60 km of ruggedly beautiful Bass Strait beaches.

Run by Parks Victoria, Banksia Bluff is made up of camp sites and some cosy cabins nestled amid hectares of banksia, scented paperbark, southern mahogany and tea tree that are home to a multitude of birds.

More than 250 bird species sing across the forests of Cape Conran, including turquoise parrot, southern emu wren, azure kingfisher and beautiful firetail.

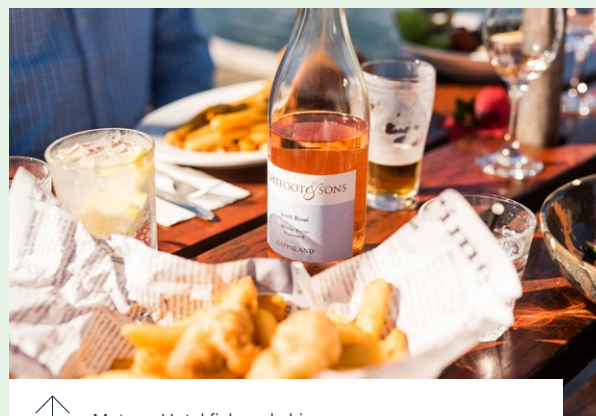
From our campsite we stroll to the long sweep of East Cape Beach for a seaside saunter.

Pelican, petrel, oyster catcher, Pacific gull, cormorant, egret, osprey and sea eagle also call the region home, and we see some of them as we stroll along the pristine sweep of pearly-white sands.

This veritable Eden supports around 300 recorded plant species and is a protected habitat for a whole slew of wildlife including wombat, wallaby, echidna, platypus, bandicoot, sugar glider, potoroo and Australian fur seal.

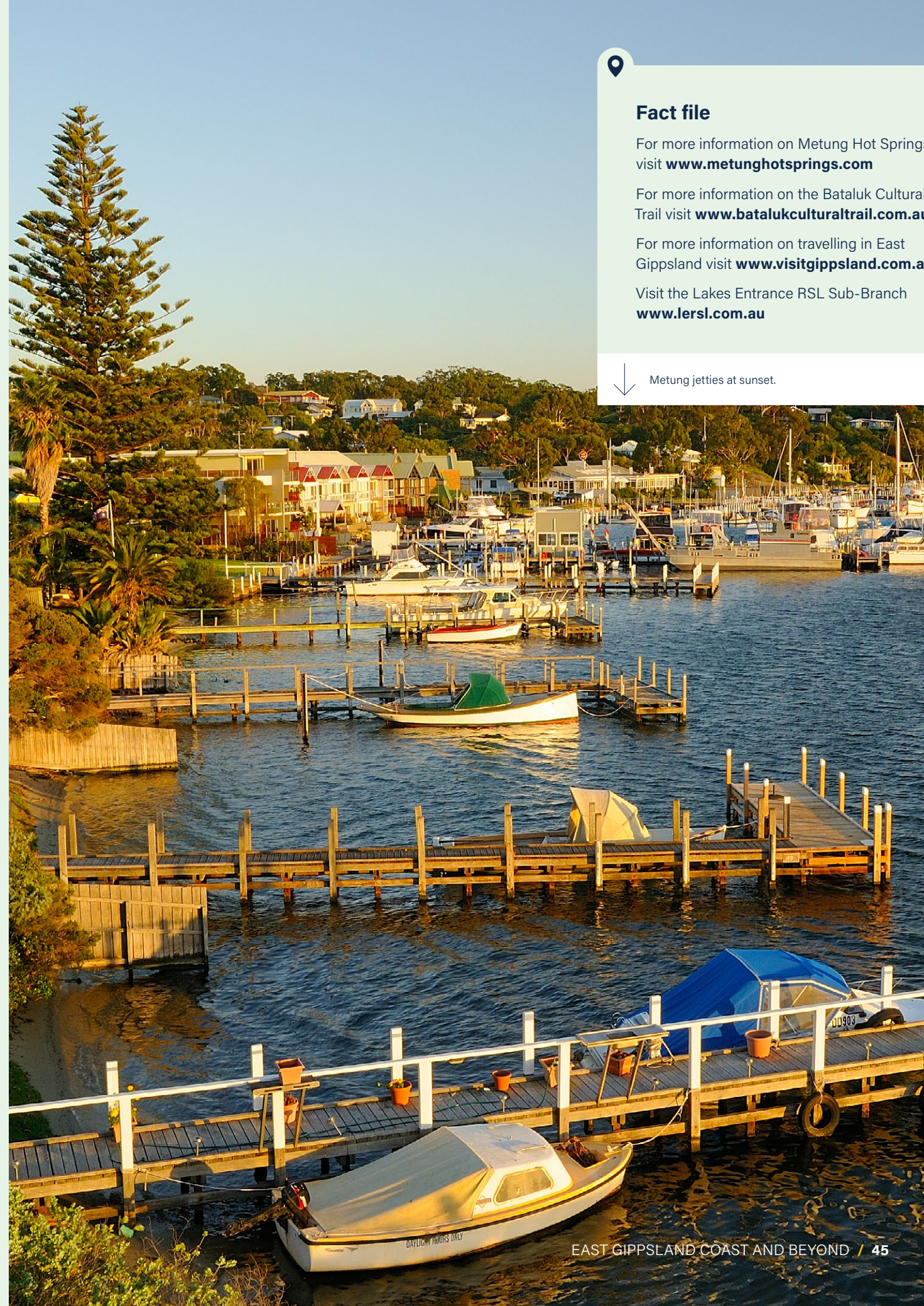
The Conran Nature Trail winds to sandy beaches, rock pools, woodlands and lookouts, and gravel roads wind through dense bush to isolated spots such as the Yeerung River, popular for kayaking.

Victoria's east coast is a whale migration highway. Each year between April and November, humpback whales can be seen migrating north from Antarctic waters to sub-tropical climes, where they mate and give birth.



↑ Metung Hotel fish and chips.

Thousands of whales pass along this coast during annual migrations. Late October and November are not only great viewing months but an ideal time to stroll along empty beaches, observe prolific wildlife and birdlife bathe in the health-giving hot springs, and lap up the serenity of one of Victoria's most paradisaal regions.



Fact file

For more information on Metung Hot Springs visit www.metunghotsprings.com

For more information on the Bataluk Cultural Trail visit www.batalukculturaltrail.com.au

For more information on travelling in East Gippsland visit www.visitgippsland.com.au

Visit the Lakes Entrance RSL Sub-Branch www.lersl.com.au

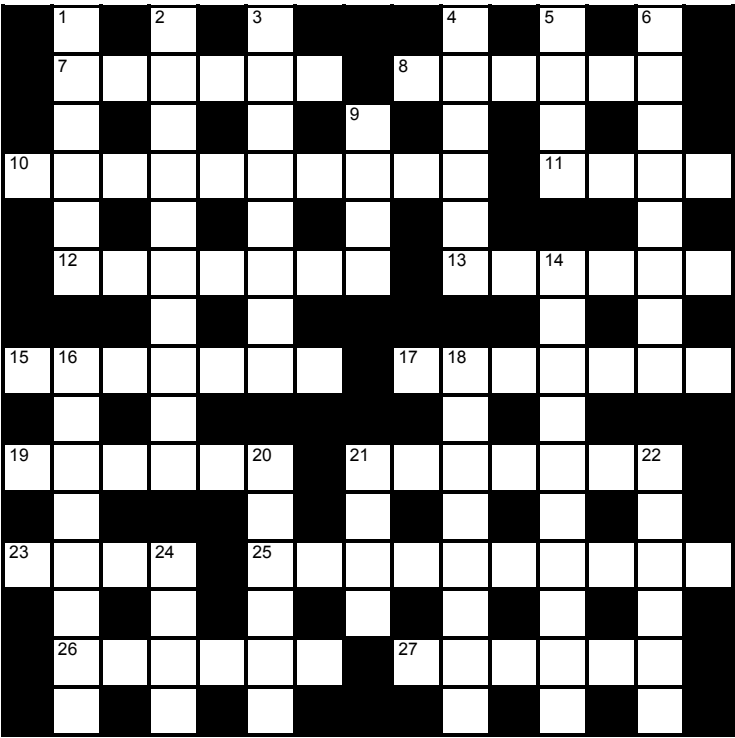


Metung jetties at sunset.

CROSSWORD
PUZZLES

Crossword solutions can
be found on page 48.

Extra clue:
Asterisked answers
were in office during
the 9-down and are
otherwise undefined



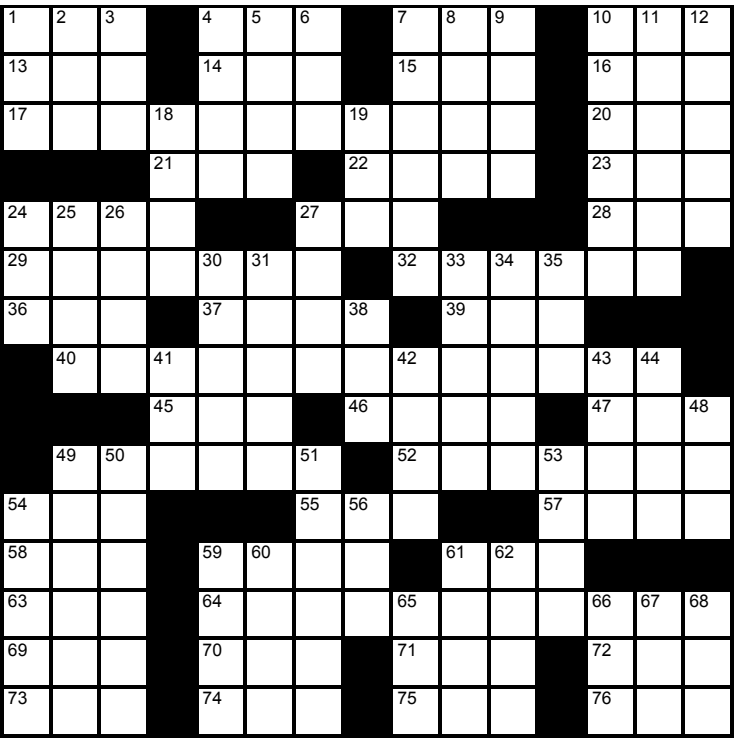
Cryptic crossword

Across

- 7 * Some chief is heroic (6)
- 8 * The man's after a cuddle (6)
- 10 SPHEREHPS? (10)
- 11 Bloody uncommon (4)
- 12 * Bokes miscalculated size (7)
- 13 Stop Desmond casually getting first (6)
- 15 Ask about mission (7)
- 17 Sleuth interrupt's vegetable's view (7)
- 19 Southern tours disastrous for Aussie tennis player (6)
- 21 * Captain, welcome to Florida! Enjoy outside (7)
- 23 Servant is insane to withhold information (4)
- 25 Probe rival's corruption. Typical! (10)
- 26 * Brusque and popular (6)
- 27 * Bring back bushranger following craze (6)

Down

- 1 Declare a full company (6)
- 2 They're rocketed to Saturn as experiments! (10)
- 3 Lucky escape from cryptic seminars (4,4)
- 4 Pondered a type of wine (6)
- 5 Laugh during councillor's toast (4)
- 6 Professes to avoid fluorine contamination in coffee (8)
- 9 Fights with walrus, after taking left turn (4)
- 14 Big endless mess! A feature of kids' rooms (6,4)
- 16 Cast a spell on the way in (8)
- 18 Very old, priggish Evangeline casually left (8)
- 20 Heal couple after religious education (6)
- 21 * Company gets fine (4)
- 22 Thirsts for last stubby and deserves it! (6)
- 24 Leading diplomat is returning to earth (4)



Quick crossword

Across

- 1 Recipe word (3)
- 4 World Service provider (3)
- 7 Perfect rating (3)
- 10 Agent (3)
- 13 Seek damages (3)
- 14 Lavatory (3)
- 15 Pub order (3)
- 16 Night before (3)
- 17 Something published each Australia Day (7,4)
- 20 Roofing material (3)
- 21 Minuscule (3)
- 22 Must pay (4)
- 23 Pie ___ mode (1,2)
- 24 Tooth trouble (4)
- 27 Airport abbreviation (1.1.1)
- 28 Not well (3)
- 29 Dad's dad (7)
- 32 Fittingly (6)
- 36 Consume (3)
- 37 Imperial unit (4)
- 39 Actor Neill (3)

- 40 The reason novices succeed when they should have no right to (9,4)
- 45 Conclusion (3)
- 46 Essence (4)
- 47 Lennon's widow (3)
- 49 Shelter for an aeroplane (6)
- 52 Studio time (7)
- 54 Zine (3)
- 55 Old Australian TV show, --- A Knockout (3)
- 57 Poker pot starter (4)
- 58 Wonderment (3)
- 59 Australian training provider (4)
- 61 Rule of --- (3)
- 63 Jogged (3)
- 64 Herbaceous biennial plant (4,7)
- 69 Assist (3)
- 70 Poem of praise (3)
- 71 Lamb's mother (3)
- 72 Fury (3)
- 73 ___ Maria (3)
- 74 Natural disaster responders (3)
- 75 Santa ___ (3)
- 76 Secretaries (3)



If you would like to suggest a theme for
our next crossword puzzle, please email
mufti@rslvic.com.au

Down

- 1 Volcano output (3)
- 2 Pair (3)
- 3 Animal house (3)
- 4 Down in the dumps (4)
- 5 Drill (4)
- 6 Type of lettuce (3)
- 7 Taipei is its capital (6)
- 8 Otherwise (4)
- 9 Fishing equipment (4)
- 10 Sell in stores (6)
- 11 How villains behave (6)
- 12 Prison-related (5)
- 18 Actor Wilson (4)
- 19 Parking place (3)
- 24 Long time (3)
- 25 Sea creature (4)
- 26 Abhor (4)
- 27 Merit (4)
- 30 Perishing (5)
- 31 _____ bear (5)
- 33 Problem (5)
- 34 Phones (5)
- 35 Big bird (3)
- 38 ___ Moines (3)
- 41 ___-X (3)
- 42 ___ River virus (4)
- 43 Mint (4)
- 44 Shoelace problem (4)
- 48 Single (3)
- 49 US state (6)
- 50 Meeting list (6)
- 51 Searches quickly (6)
- 53 Wood cutters (4)
- 54 Tennis player Safin (5)
- 56 Nickname for Theodore (3)
- 59 Numerals (4)
- 60 Gofer (4)
- 61 Croquet site (4)
- 62 Neighbourhood (4)
- 65 Shade of green (3)
- 66 Sass (3)
- 67 Period (3)
- 68 Cry of success (3)

WRITE TO US

Send your feedback to mufti@rslvic.com.au or RSL Victoria at ANZAC House, 4 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

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Brad Swain
Marketing and Communications Manager

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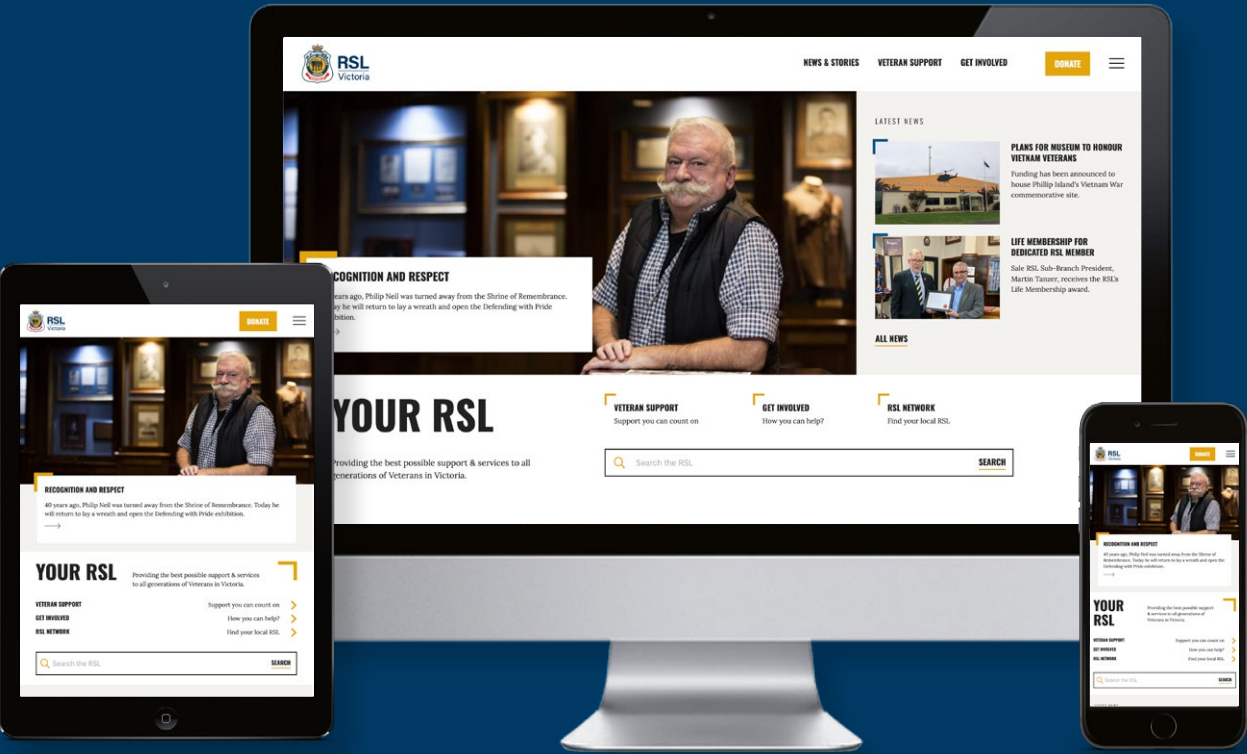
Crossword solutions

A	A	N	M	C	E
F	I	S	H	E	R
F	T	A	W	L	A
M	I	R	R	B	A
R	O	M	R	E	R
M	E	N	Z	I	E
A	S				
R	E	Q	U	E	S
N	T				
S	T	O	S		
R	A	I	D		
M	A	I	D		
N	I	A	K		
C	U	R	T	I	N
E	T	R			

Cryptic crossword

A	D	D	B	B	C	T	E	N	R	E	P
S	U	E	L	O	O	A	L	E	E	V	E
H	O	N	O	U	R	S	L	I	S	T	I
W	E	E				O	W	E	S	A	L
A	C	H	E			E	T	A		I	L
G	R	A	N	D	P	A		N	I	C	E
E	A	T	Y	A	R	D		S	A	M	
B	E	G	I	N	N	E	R	S	L	U	C
H	A	N	G	A	R			S	E	S	S
M	A	G									
A	W	E				T	A	F	E	L	A
R	A	N				W	I	L	D	P	A
A	I	D				O	D	E		E	W
T	I	A				S	E	S	A	N	A

Quick crossword



VALÉ

Here are the names of Life and Service Members that RSL Victoria has been notified of passing away since the last edition of *Mufti* was published. Lest we forget.

Navy

Fennell Harry Bacchus Marsh RSL
Stares Frank Bacchus Marsh RSL
Mowday Josephine Beaumaris RSL
Scanlon Barry Bendigo District RSL
Pope Ivan Bendigo District RSL
Christophers Thomas Bentleigh RSL
Garrick Cedric Bentleigh RSL
Waters Laurence Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham
Kelsall Ronald Box Hill RSL
Paizis James Box Hill RSL
Stuart Walter Box Hill RSL
Grant George Burwood RSL
Cowan Rob Colac RSL
Eldridge Stephen Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Mock Robert Darebin RSL
Clark John Dromana-Red Hill RSL
Miller Nancy East Malvern RSL
Britton Roland Emerald RSL
Farnell Clyde Emerald RSL
Borradale Brian Frankston RSL
Ferrie Brian Frankston RSL
Schoon Bram Greensborough RSL
Bird George Highett RSL
Bird Bruce Highett RSL
Scott Kevin Inverloch RSL
Murdoch Robert Ivanhoe RSL
Penna James E Keilor East RSL
Anderson Donald Kyabram RSL
Niehus George Kyabram RSL
Lotherington William Kyneton RSL
Murrells John Lakes Entrance RSL
Briggs Norman Lakes Entrance RSL
Van Der Bruggen Antonius Lakes Entrance RSL
Willis Ronald Lakes Entrance RSL
Edwards Alfred Mathoura RSL
Yard Allan Melton RSL
Clarke Len Melton RSL

Dedynskyj Borys Moe RSL
Johnstone Archibald Moe RSL
Hibbert Leslie Moe RSL
Martin Albert Moe RSL
Dudley William Numurkah RSL
Ryan Douglas Pascoe Vale RSL
Fernie Betty Phillip Island RSL
Martin Ross Portland RSL
Airey Maxwell Ringwood RSL
Ross John Rosebud RSL
McKenzie Arthur Shepparton RSL
Ramage Mark Sunbury RSL
Guest Alan Toorak RSL
Ward Edward Traralgon RSL
Bonnett Charles Traralgon RSL
Stevenson Snr Robert Waverley RSL
Donald Ian Waverley RSL
Fraser Alexander Waverley RSL
Spence John Werribee RSL
Twigg Richard Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL

Army

Chandler Alan Altona RSL
Manning Eric Altona RSL
Ross Barry Altona RSL
Jones Dennis Altona RSL
Bennett William J Altona RSL
Macpherson Donald Bairnsdale RSL
Bryant Nat Bairnsdale RSL
Fitzpatrick Stanley Bairnsdale RSL
Downward Patrick Bairnsdale RSL
St John Jim Bairnsdale RSL
Raper Douglas Ballarat RSL
Watson Gregory Ballarat RSL
Evans Lorna Ballarat RSL
Gregory Milton Benalla RSL
Patterson William Bendigo District RSL
Forbes Wayne Bendigo District RSL
Drewitt Leo Bendigo District RSL
Anstee Kevin Bendigo District RSL
Wilson John Bendigo District RSL
Potter Denis Bendigo District RSL
Carter Thomas Bendigo District RSL
Robertson Keith Bendigo District RSL
Bassett Ronald Bendigo District RSL
McNee Alan Bendigo District RSL
George Edward Bentleigh RSL
Stevens Graham Bentleigh RSL
Giezen Johannes Bentleigh RSL
Peirson Fred Bentleigh RSL
Oliver George Bentleigh RSL
Prentice James Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham
Sutherland Eric Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham

Shinkfield William Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham
West Michael Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham
Fry Ian Perryman Bentleigh RSL — Cheltenham
Cochrane RFD Ed Robert Berwick RSL
Spooner Walter Blackburn RSL
Spooner Walter Blackburn RSL
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Allen Victor Box Hill RSL
Snell Edward Box Hill RSL
Charlesworth Alwyn Box Hill RSL
Teague Ian Box Hill RSL
Jackson Keith Box Hill RSL
Olsen John Box Hill RSL
Magner Alexander Box Hill RSL
Sallows John Box Hill RSL
Bowles Kevin Box Hill RSL
Atwell Albert Camperdown RSL
Thomas John Cann River RSL
James Kenneth Castlemaine RSL
McMillan Bruno Castlemaine RSL
Gardner Heather Caulfield RSL
Elder Ian Charlton RSL
Fraser Neil Basil Clayton RSL
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Brown George Cobram-Barooga RSL
Fitzpatrick Robert Cobram-Barooga RSL
Fountain Barry Cohuna-Leitchville RSL
Taylor James Cohuna-Leitchville RSL
Nowell R.C. Colac RSL
Macfarlane Helen Coleraine RSL
Field Donald Croydon RSL
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Michau Tony Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
McAlpine Snr William Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Patterson William Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Edmiston Robert Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Tooby Ronald Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Sullivan Leslie Charles Darebin RSL
Chenhall John Diamond Creek RSL
Phillips Geoffrey Doncaster RSL
Nuthall Beverley Dromana-Red Hill RSL
Inglis Robert East Malvern RSL
Taylor James East Malvern RSL
Sturrock Robert East Malvern RSL
Hogan Patrick East Malvern RSL
Bowyer Roy Echuca RSL
Duncan George Epping RSL
Voogt Peter Euroa RSL
Legg Jim Euroa RSL
Huynh Quang Footscray RSL
Nguyen Danh Footscray RSL
Delphine John Frankston RSL
Shilling Arthur Frankston RSL
Such Judith Frankston RSL

Hall John Frankston RSL
Jarvis Robin Frankston RSL
Saunders Robert Frankston RSL
Hussey Thomas Frankston RSL
Ainsworth Thomas Frankston RSL
Matthews Edna Frankston RSL
Johnson Desmond Geelong RSL
Hill Peter Geelong RSL
Bohan John Geelong RSL
Tomison Peter Geelong RSL
Hayes Francis Geelong RSL
Nimon Alex Geelong RSL
Thomas John Geelong RSL
Sim Lloyd Geelong RSL
Pearce Geoffrey Geelong RSL
Robertson Allen Graeme Geelong RSL
Bolton James Geelong RSL
Frake Kelvin Geelong RSL
Austin Raymond Glenroy RSL
Lee Graham Glenroy RSL
Lumsden Noel Glenroy RSL
Douglas George Greensborough RSL
Fox Raymond Greensborough RSL
McAleer James Greensborough RSL
Curtis-Bramwell Roy Greensborough RSL
Hook John Greensborough RSL
Ellard Roy Greensborough RSL
Carroll Joseph Greensborough RSL
Kelly Brendan Greensborough RSL
Bermingham Colin Headquarters
Jenkins-Fry Daryl Headquarters
Howlett Christopher Headquarters
Symes Patrick Healesville RSL
Robinson Kenneth Healesville RSL
Farnell Allan Healesville RSL
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Kontossis Konstantinos Hellenic RSL
Giofkou Athanasios Hellenic RSL
Klingos Dimitrios Hellenic RSL
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Paige Brian Highett RSL
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Buckley Raymond Horsham RSL
Anderson John Horsham RSL
Murphy Gerard Horsham RSL
Green William Horsham RSL
Jones Lindsay Horsham RSL
Creasey Frank Horsham RSL
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Francis Graham Ivanhoe RSL
Jinnette Leonard Ivanhoe RSL
Silver Malcolm Ivanhoe RSL
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Coulston George Kiewa RSL
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Whiting Reginald Pascoe Vale RSL
Anderson Kenneth Phillip Island RSL
Wynne Kenneth Stanley Phillip Island RSL
Shaw Robert Phillip Island RSL
Croft Derek Phillip Island RSL
Burrell William Portland RSL
Sturzaker Colin Portland RSL
Rowe Margaret Red Cliffs-Irnyple RSL
Lower Malcolm Reservoir RSL
Smith Jean Returned And Servicewomen RSL
More Margaret Returned and Servicewomen RSL
Ford Margaret Returned Nurses RSL
Amos Daphne Returned Nurses RSL
Johnson Frederick Ringwood RSL
Peach Ivor Ringwood RSL
Cupples John Ringwood RSL
Steele Arthur Ripon-Beaufort RSL
Shirley Fay Rochester RSL
Luck Trevor Rosebud RSL
Rossborough Frederick Rosebud RSL
Craine John Rosebud RSL
McCartney James Rosebud RSL
Baumgartner Arthur Rye RSL
Need John Rye RSL
Grumont Glen Rye RSL

Mills Ian Rye RSL
Webber Charles Sale RSL
Longmuir Raymond Sale RSL
Murley Frederick Shepparton RSL
Greening Trevor Shepparton RSL
Davis Maurice Shepparton RSL
Winter Susan Sorrento-Portsea RSL
Luker Ronald Stanhope RSL
Rogerson David Stanhope RSL
Jones Ivan Stawell RSL
Burke John Strathmerton RSL
Evans Thomas Sunshine RSL
Bonnick Joseph Sunshine RSL
Teal Barry Swan Hill RSL
Rickard Arthur Swan Hill RSL
Morrison Norman Templestowe RSL
Smith Michael Toorak RSL
Matthews Gloria Tramways-East Melbourne RSL
Hinde Edward Traralgon RSL
Baker Leigh Upwey-Belgrave RSL
Moore Kenneth Wangaratta RSL
Beet Ernie Wangaratta RSL
Newman Francis Wangaratta RSL
Campbell Kevin Warragul RSL
Waddell Janet-Jean Warragul RSL
Knee Elizabeth Warragul RSL
Cheong Lester Warrandyte RSL
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Kelly Jean Waverley RSL
Pearsall Kevin Waverley RSL
Hepenstall Charles Waverley RSL
Day Reginald Waverley RSL
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Young Ken Wodonga RSL
Rhook Clive Wodonga RSL
Shirley Kevin Wodonga RSL
Wise Garry Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL
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Osmotherly James Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL
Ramsdale Maxwell Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL

Little John Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL
Preston Frank Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL
Grant Norman Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL

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Argent Colin Altona RSL
Chandler Alan Altona RSL
McSparron Denis Altona RSL
Tedford John Bacchus Marsh RSL
Mayne Brian Bacchus Marsh RSL
Firrell Henry Bairnsdale RSL
Morrow Herbert Bairnsdale RSL
Hives Norman Bairnsdale RSL
Davies Syd Bairnsdale RSL
Meikle Keith Benalla RSL
Jelbart Sidney Bendigo District RSL
Jackson Herbert Bendigo District RSL
Hosking Rupert Bendigo District RSL
Palmer Stan Bendigo District RSL
Jones Joan Bendigo District RSL
Brennan Vincent Bendigo District RSL
Stakelum Edith Bentleigh RSL
Wade Russell Bentleigh RSL
Bryce David Bentleigh RSL
Ridgewell Brian Blackburn RSL
Zenner Russell Box Hill RSL
Mathieson Alexander Box Hill RSL
Young Eric Box Hill RSL
Walter Phil Box Hill RSL
Edwards Robert Casterton RSL
Macdonald Helen Castlemaine RSL
Bibby Frank Croydon RSL
Barnes Kenneth Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Crichton David Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Gavey John Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL
Nugent Charles. Dromana-Red Hill RSL
Spiers Cliff Echuca RSL
Pryke George Emerald RSL
Warnecke Denis Frankston RSL
Royce Alan Geelong RSL
Williams Keith Geelong RSL
Copperwaite Arthur Geelong RSL
Ewing David Greensborough RSL
Serpell Keith Greensborough RSL
Doyle Owen Greensborough RSL
Dennehy Reginald Healesville RSL
Natt Anthony Healesville RSL
Clarke Roy Healesville RSL
Paivanas Constantine Hellenic RSL

Ewin Kenneth Highett RSL
Lomas Joyce Highett RSL
Webster Graham Highett RSL
Dodwell Malcolm Highett RSL
Day Alan Ivanhoe RSL
Mielnik Andrew Keilor East RSL
Coningsby Edward Kilmore-Wallan RSL
Etherton Leslie Kilmore-Wallan RSL
McManus John Kyneton RSL
Peachey Norm Longbeach RSL
Lang Margaret Moe RSL
Barber Lawrence Nhill RSL
McCracken Alan Pascoe Vale RSL
Harrison William Pascoe Vale RSL
King Patrick Phillip Island RSL
Maiden Eileen May Phillip Island RSL
Brown Robert Phillip Island RSL
Hawker David Phillip Island RSL
McColl Graham Portarlington-St. Leonards RSL
Tyzzar Kenneth James Portland RSL
Williams Richard Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale RSL
Cochrane Walter Reservoir RSL
Ettridge Raymond Ringwood RSL
Baker Eric Rosebud RSL
Alderson Peter Rosebud RSL
Jackson William Rosebud RSL
Fitzell Leslie Rye RSL
Newton Michael Shepparton RSL
Condron Maxwell Shepparton RSL
Turnour Keppel Shepparton RSL
Parry Viv Shepparton RSL
Nemecek Edna Sorrento-Portsea RSL
Luker David Stanhope RSL
Carmichael Edward Sunbury RSL
Grambau Vincent Swan Hill RSL
Benson Ron Toorak RSL
Harbison Ronald Torquay RSL
Brogan Edward Tramways-East Melbourne RSL
Thornhill John Violet Town RSL
Hearn Ronald Wangaratta RSL
Robertson Ian Watsonia RSL
Reed Jessie Waverley RSL
Stevens Hartley Waverley RSL
Bennett Edwin Waverley RSL
Bryant Arnold Waverley RSL
Anderson Peter Waverley RSL
Rowed Michael Waverley RSL
Eichler Nathan Werribee RSL
Marsland-Kelsey Malcolm Werribee RSL
Hill Noel Werribee RSL
Murray Margaret Whittlesea RSL
Delahoy Wayne Wodonga RSL
Delahoy Wayne Wodonga RSL
Neal Bruce Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL



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